

The Most Deléctable

HISTORY

O F

Reynard the Fox.

Newly Corrected and Purged, from all grossities
in Phrase and Matter.

Augmented and Enlarged with sundry Excellent
Morals and Expositions upon every several Chapter.

To which may now be added a Second Part of the said History:
As also the Shifts of *Reynardine* the Son of *Reynard* the FOX,
Together with his Life and Death, &c.



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The Epistle to the Reader.

THOU hast here (courteous and friendly Reader) the pleasant and delightful History of *Reynard* the Fox, which in an humble and low stile (couched to the natures of Beasts it treateth on) beareth in it much excellent Morality and hidden Wisdom, worthy both thy regard in the reading, and thine application in the course and commercement of thy Life and Actions: for, the aim at which it bendeth, is the overthrow of Vice, and the advancement of the Good and Virtuous.

Now, forasmuch as hitherto it hath flown into the World (like *Sybila's* loose Papers) covered with much obscurity and darkness: I have for thy more ease and con-

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tentment, to every severall Chapter, annexed the Morals and Expositions of such dark places, as may hold thy Judgment, in seeking to find out a Labyrinth so dark and curious. A labour, which I doubt not but it will prove both pleasant and wholesome, since as a friendly Guide it will keep thy meditations from wandring astray; and as a pleasant Companion, hold thee with such delightful discourse, that thy Journey therein will neither be long nor irksome therein; at which End, if it arrive with a fair safety, as it is faithfully and truly intended, I have the sum of my wishes, and thy self the prosperity, both of this, and other mens Endeavours.

Farewell.



The Pleasant

HISTORY

OF

REYNARD the FOX.

CHAP. I.

How the *Lyon* Proclaimed a Solemn Feast at his Court, and how *Ygrim* the Wolf and his Wife, and *Curtise* the Hound, made their Complaints of *Reynard* the FOX.



AT the Feast of Pentecost (which is commonly called Whitsontide) when the Woods are in their lusty-hood and gallantry, and every Tree clothed in the green and white Libery of glorious leaves, and sweet smelling blossoms; and the earth covered in her fairest Mantle of Flowers, which the Birds with much joy entertain with the delight of their harmonious songs.

Then at this time and entrance of the lusty Spring, the Lyon the Royal King of Beasts, to celebrate this holy Feast-time with all triumphant ceremony, intends to keep open Court at his great Palace of Sanden; and to that end. (by solemn

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Iemn Proclamation) makes known over all his Kingdon to all beaſts whatſoever, that upon pain to be held contenptuous, every one ſhould reſort to that great celebration; ſo that within few days after (at the time prefixed) all Beaſts both great and ſmall, came in infinite multitudes to the Court, only Reynard the Fox excepted, who knew himſelf guilty in ſo many treſpaſſes againſt many Beaſts, that his coming thither muſt needs have put his life in great hazard and danger.



Now when the King had aſſembled all his Court together, there were few Beaſts found, but made their ſeveral complaints againſt the Fox: but eſpecially Iſegrim the Wolf, who being the firſt and principal complainant, came with all his lineage and kindred, and ſtanding before the King, ſaid in this manner:

My deareſt and deareſt Sovereign Lord the King, I humbly beſeech you, that from the height and ſtrength of your great power, and the multitude of your mercies, you will be pleaſed to take pity on the great treſpaſſes and unſufferable injuries which

of Reynard the FOX.



which that unworthy creature Reynard the Fox hath done to me, my wife, and our whole family: of which to give your Highneſſe ſome taſt, know (if it pleaſe your Maieſty) that this Reynard came into my houſe by violence, and againſt the will of my wife, where finding my Children laid in my quiet couch, he ſo be-piſt them in ſo rank a manner, that with the ſharpenes of his Urine they fell inſtantly blind: For this offence a day was ſet and appointed, wherein Reynard ſhould come to excuſe himſelf, and to take a ſolem Oath that he was guiltleſs of that high injury: but as ſoon as the Book was tendered before him (he that well knew his own guiltineſſe) reſuſed to ſwear, and ran inſtantly into his hole, both in contempt of your Maieſty and your Laws: This (my dread Lord) may not the nobleſt Beaſts know which now are reſident in your Court: For hath this alone bounded his malice, but in many other things he hath treſpaſſed againſt me, which to relate, neither the time nor your Highneſſe's patience, would give ſufferance thereunto: ſuffice it, mine injuries are ſo great, that none can exceed them, and the ſhame and villany he hath done to my wife is ſuch, that

The Moral.

Howſoever a vicious man perſwades himſelf to eſcape puniſhment, by abſeſting himſelf from the preſence of the Magiſtrate; yet he deceives himſelf, & by contempt animates his enemies to be more bold in their complaints againſt him, as appears herein.

that I can never bide nor suffer it unrevenged, but I must expect from him amends, and from your Majesty mercy. When the Wolf had spoken these words, there stood by him a little Hound whose name was Curtilf, who stepping forth, made likewise a grievous complaint (unto the King) against the Fox, saying, that in the extreame cold season of the winter, when the frost was most violent, he being half starved and be-



tained from all manner of prey, had no more meat left him to sustain his life, than one poor Budding, which Budding (he said) Reynard had most unjustly taken from him.

But

of Reynard the FOX.

But the Hound could hardly let these words fly from his lips, when with a fierp and angry countenance, in spurring Tibert the Cat amongst them, and falling down before the King, said, My Lord the King, I must confess the Fox is here grievously complained upon: yet were other Beasts actions searched, each would have enough to do for his own clearing.

Touching the complaint of Curtilf the hound, it was an offence committed many years ago: and though I my self complain of no injury, yet was the Budding mine, and not his: for I got it by right out of a Mill when the Miller lay asleep: so that if Curtilf could challenge any share thereof, it must be from mine interest.

When Panther heard these words of the Cat, he stood forth and said, Do you imagine Tibert, that it were a just or a good course that Reynard should not be complained upon? toby the whole World knows he is a murderer, a ravisher, and a thief, and that indeed he loveth not truly any Creature, no not his Majesty himself, but would suffer his highness to lose both Honour and Renown, so that he might thereby attain to himself but so much as the leg of a fat hen: I shall tell you what I saw him do yesterbay to Kayward the Hare, that now standeth in the Kings Presence: he promised unto Kayward that he would teach him his Credo, and make him a good Chaplain; he made him come sit betwixt his legs, and sing and cry aloud Credo, Credo, my way lay thereby, and I heard the song: then coming nearer, I found that Mr. Reynard had left his first note and song, and began to play his old deceit: for he had caught Kayward by the throat, and had I not at that time come, he had taken his life also, as you may see by the fresh wound on Kayward at this present. O my Lord the King, if you suffer this unpunished, and let him go quit that hath thus broken your peace, and profaned your dignity, and doing no right according to the judgment of your Laws, your Princely children, many years hereafter, shall bear the slander of his evil. Certainly Panther (said Segrin) you say true, and it is fit they receive the benefit of Justice, that desire to live in peace.

B

CHAP.

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C H A P. II.

How *Grimbard* the Brock spake for *Reynard*,
before the KING.

Then spake *Grimbard* the Brock (that was *Reynards*
sisters Son) being much moved with anger, *Isegrim*,
you are malicious, and it is a common Proverb, Malice never



spake

of *Reynard* the FOX.

spake well, what can you say against my kinsman *Reynard*? *The Moral*:
I would you durst adventure, that which of you had most in- Vice is never
jured one another, might die the death, and be hanged as a fel- without his ad-
low : I tell you, were he here in the Court, and as much in vocate : and
the Kings favour as you are, it would be too little satis- be a man never
faction for you to ask mercy : you have many times bitten so lewd yet he
and torn my kinsman with your venomous teeth, and much shall still find
oftner then I can reckon ; yet some I will call up to my re- one or other
membrance. to plead for
him, especially
where there
is either

Have you forgot how you cheated him with the *Plaice* greatness of
which he threw down from the Cart, when you followed a- wealth in the
look for fear? yet you devoured the good *Plaice* alone, and gave offender, or
him no more but the great bones, which you could not eat any alliance of
your self: the like you did with the fat *Sitch* of *Bacon*, whose blood to those
taste was so good, that your self alone did eat it up; and when in favour: as
my Uncle asked his part, you answered him with scorn, appears here
fair young man thou shalt have thy share; but he got not any by the Brock,
thing, albeit he won the *Bacon* with great fear and hazard, which pleads
for the Fox;
for the owner came and caught my kinsman in a Sack, from first because he
whence he hardly escaped with life: many of those injuries was of his kin,
hath *Isegrim* done to *Reynard*, which I beseech your Lordships and next he
judge if these be sufferable: again, he complaineth that my was rich, and
kinsman hath wronged him in his wife: 'tis true, and I con- able to pleas-
fess *Reynard* hath lien with her; yet it was seven years be- ure him: last-
fore *Isegrim* did wed her: and if my Uncle out of courtesie did ly, here is to
her a pleasure, what was that to him: he was soon healed of be observed,
her soze: noz ought he to complain of any thing not belonging the insinuation
to him; wisdom would have concealed it; for what credit of the advo-
gets he by the slander of his wife, especially when she is not cate, excusing
grieved? the Fox's faults

Now comes *Kayward* the Hare with his complaint, which sooner brings a
to me seems but a trifle: for if he will learn to read, and read good man to
not his lesson aright, who will blame the School-master *Reynard* if he give him due correction: for if Scholars be not belief and for-
beaten and chastised, they will never learn. givencis.

Lastly complaineth *Curtise*, that he with great pain had gotten

cotten a Pudding in the Windoto, being a season in which vic-
tuals are hard; me-thinks silence would have become
him better, for he had stoln it: and Mylequisti, & myleper-
didisti, 'tis fit it was evil lost, it was evil won; who can blame
Reynard to take stoln goods from a thief? It is reason that
he which understands the Law, and can discern right, being
of great and high birth, as my kinsman is, do right unto the
Law; Nay, had he hanged up Curise when he took him in
that manner, he had offended none but the King, in doing
Justice without leave; wherefore for respect to his Majesty
he did it not, though he reap little thanks for his labour: alas
how do these complaints hurt him: mine Uncle is a Gentle-
man, and a true man: nor can he endure falsehood: he doth no-
thing without the counsel of the Priest: and I affirm, since
my Lord the King proclaimed his peace, he never sought
to hurt any man: for he eateth but once a day, he liveth as a
Recluse, he chastiseth his body, and weareth a shirt of hair-
cloth: it is a year since he eat any flesh (as I have been truly
informed by them that came but yesterday from him) he
hath forsaken his Castle Melpardus, and abandoned all Roy-
alty, a poor Hermitage retains him: hunting he hath for-
sworn, and his wealth he hath scattered, living only by alms
and good mens charities: doing infinite penance for his sins,
so that he is become pale and lean with praying and fasting,
for he would fain be with God.

Thus whilst Grimbold his Nephew stood preaching,
they perceive coming down the hill unto them, stout Chan-
tecleer the Cock, who brought upon a Bier, a dead Hen, of
whom Reynard had bitten off the head, and it was brought to
the King to have knowledge thereof.

CHAP. III.

*Chantecler the Cock complained of Reynard
the FOX.*

CHANTECLEER marched foremost, smote pitcously his
hands & feathers, whilst on the other side the Bier, went
two



two sorrowful Hens, the one was Coppel the other the good
Hen Cragant, being two of the fairest Hens between Holland
and Arden: these Hens bore each of them a straight bright
burning Taper, and these Hens were sister to Coppel (which
lay dead on the Bier) and in the marching they cried,
Alack, alack and well-a-day for the death of Coppel our
dear

The Moral. When wicked men cannot compass their wickedness by strong hand, or violence against their enemies: then they study deceits and shifts to enangle them. Of all which none is so powerful, as the shew of Religion: for that working upon the easie belief of the simple, makes them many times ship themselves into the rough Seas, whence there is no help, but shipwrack, as the foolish Cock did to believe the subtle Fox. Also in this man may see, that though an evil man may be new and then excused of some faults, yet still he shall not escape being discovered.

Most merciful and my great Lord the King, vouchsafe, I beseech you to hear our complaint, and redress these injuries which Reynard hath unjustly done to me, and my children that here stand weeping: for so it is (most mighty Sir) that in the beginning of April, when the weather was fair, I being then at the height of my pride and gloze, because of the great stock and lineage I came of, and also in that I had eight valiant sons, and seven fair daughters, which my wife had hatch'd, all which were strong and fat, and walked in a park well walled, and fenced round about where in they had in several sheds for their guard six stout Mastiff Dogs: which had torn the Skins of many wild Beasts: so that my children feared not any evil which might happen unto them: But Reynard, that false and dissembling Traytor, entering their happy fortune because of their safety, many times assailed the walls, and gave such dangerous assaults, that the Dogs divers times were let forth unto him, and hunted him away; yea, once they light upon him, and bit him, and made him pay the price of his theft, as his torn skin witnessed; yet nevertheless he escaped, the more was the pity; yet we were quiet of his trouble a great while after; at last he came in the likeness of a Hermit, and brought me a letter to read, Sealed with your Majesty's Seal, in which I found written, that your Highness had made peace throughout all your Realm, and that no manner of Beasts or Fowl should do injury one to another; affirming unto me, that for his own part he was become a Monk or Cloistered recluse, bowing to perform a daily penance for his sins: shewing unto me his Beads, his Books, and the hair shirt next to his skin: saying in humble wise unto me: Sir Chantecler, never henceforth be afraid of me, for I have vowed never more to eat flesh.

I am



I am now waxed old, and would only remember my soul: therefore I take my leave: for I have yet my noon and my evening-song to say: which spake, he departed, saying his Credo as he went, and layed him down under a Hawthorn: at this I was exceeding glad, that I took no heed, but went and clocked my children together and walked without the Wall: which

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which I shall ever rue: for false Reynard lying under a bush, came creeping betwixt us and the gate, and suddenly surprised one of my children, which he thrust up in his mail, and bore away to my great sorrow, for having tasted the sweetness of our flesh, neither hunter nor hound can protest nor keep him from us: Night and day he waits upon us with that greediness, that of fifteen of my children, he hath left but four unslaughtered; and yesterday Coppel my daughter (which here lieth dead on the Bier) was after her mother by a Kennel of Hounds rescued from him. This is my complaint, and this I leave to your Highness mercy to take pity of me, and the loss of my fair children.

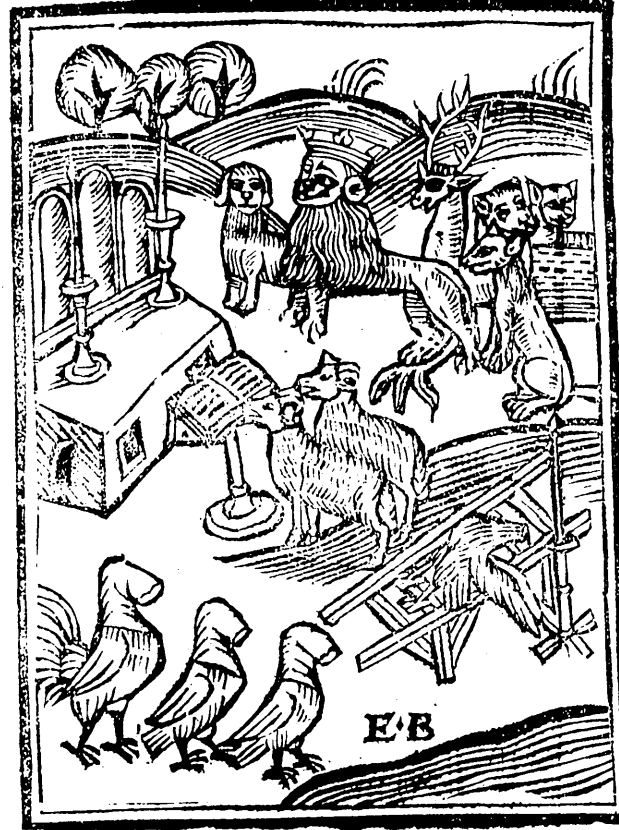
The Kings answer to the Cocks complaint: and how they sung the Dirge.

The Moral.

Here those that excuse bad actions, may see how such offences return to disgrace, because evil men's vices being disclosed, excuses are their shames that make them: as it happened now to the Brock. Also in the Lion may be seen the effects of a good disposition, which is expressed in the honours and rights of burial done to the Hen, which is a satisfaction

Then spake the King, Sir Grimbold, hear you this of your Uncle the Recluse? he hath fasted and prayed well: well believe it, if I live a year, he shall dearly abide it: as for you Chantecler, your complaint is heard, and shall be cured: to your daughter that is dead, we will give her the right burial, and with solemn Dirge bring her to the earth with worship; which done, we will consult with our Lords, how to do you right and justice against the murderer. When began the Placido Domine, with all the verses belonging to it, which are too many to recite: and as soon as the Dirge was done, the body was interred, and upon it a fair marble stone laid, being polished as bright as glass: in which was engraven in great letters this inscription following, COPPEL Chanteclers daughter, whom Reynard the Fox hath slain, lieth here buried; Mourn thou that Readest it: For her Death was unjust and lamentable. After this, the King sent for his Lords and wisest Councellores, to consult how this foul murder of Reynards might be punished. In the end it was concluded that Reynard should be sent for, and without all excuse to appear before the King, to answer the trespasses that should

of Reynard the FOX.



delibered by Bruin the Bear: to all this the King gave consent, and calling him before him, said, Sir Bruin, it is our pleasure that you deliver this message, yet in the delivery thereof have great regard to your self: for Reynard is full of policy, and knoweth how to dissemble, flatter and betray; he hath a world

for the grief her kin endured. In the Bear's willingness to fetch the Fox, is expressed how apt a malicious nature is to be employed in any thing that may offend his adversary, and how commonly such employments miscarry.

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of snares to entangle you withal, and without great exercise of judgment, will make a scorn and mock of the best wisdom breathing. My Lord (answered Sir Bruin) let me alone with Reynard; I am not such a truant in discretion, to become a mock to his knavery: and thus full of jollity, the Bear departed: if his return be as jovial, there is no fear in his well speeding.



C H A P.

of *Reynard* the F O X.

C H A P. V.

How *Bruin* the Bear sped with *Reynard* the F O X.

The next morning away went Bruin the Bear, in quest of the Fox, armed against all plots of deceit whatsoever: and as he came through a dark forest, in which Reynard had a by-path, which he used when he was hunted, he saw a high mountain, over which he must pass to go to Malepardus; for though Reynard have many houses, yet Malepardus is his chiefest and most ancient Castle, and in it he lay both for defence and ease: Now at last when Bruin was come to Malepardus, he found the gates close shut, at which after he had knocked (sitting on his tail) he called aloud, Sir Reynard, are you at home? I am Bruin your Kinsman, whom the King hath sent to summon you to the Court, to answer many foul accusations exhibited against you: and hath taken a great Oath, that if you fail to appear to this summons, that your life shall answer your contempt, and your goods and honours shall lie confiscate at his Highness's mercy: Therefore, fair Kinsman, be advised by your friend, and go with me to the Court, to shun the danger that else will fall upon you. Reynard lying close by the gate (as his custom was, for the warm Sun-sake) hearing these words, departed into one of his holes, for Malepardus is full of many intricate and curious Rooms, which (labyrinth-wise) he could pass through, when either his danger, or the benefit of any prey required the same) where meditating a while with himself how he might counterplot and bring the Bear to disgrace (whom he knew loved him not) and himself to honour; at last he came forth, and said, Dear Uncle Bruin, you are exceeding welcome, pardon my slowness in coming, for at your first speech I was saying my Even song; and devotion must not be neglected: believe me he hath done you no good service, nor do I thank him which hath sent you this weary and long journey, in which your sweat and toil, far exceeds the worth of the labour: certainly had you not come, I had to morrow been at the Court of mine own accord

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The Moral.

In this Encounter between the Fox and the Bear, is expressed the dissimulation of two wicked persons, each plotting to do the other mischief: wherein though the wisest commonly get the victory at first yet the just cause, in the end prevaileth. In the Bears greediness to eat honey, is expressed the lascivious inconsistency of a loose unrestrained nature at this time my sorrow is much lessened, in as much as your counsel at this present, may return me double benefit: Alas Uncle! could his Majesty find no meaner a messenger than your noble self to employ in these trivial affairs? truly it appears strange to me: especially since, next his Royal Self, you are of greatest renown both in Blood and Riches: for my part I would we were both at Court, for I fear our journey will be exceeding troublesome: for to speak truth, since I made my abstinence from flesh, I have eaten such strange new meats, that my body is very much disordered, and swelled as if it would break. Alas, dear Cousin (said the Bear) what meat is this which makes you so ill: Uncle answered he: what will it profit you to know? the meat was simple and mean; we poor men are no Lords you know, but eat that for necessity, which others eat for wantonness: yet, not to delay you, that which I eat, was Honey-combs, great, full and most pleasant, which compelled my hunger, I eat too immeasurably, and am thereby infinitely disordered: ah quoth Bruin, Honey-combs; do you make such light respect of them, Nephew? what is meat for the greatest Emperor in the World. Alas Nephew,

of Reynard the FOX.

phew, help me but to some of that honey, and I will be your servant whilst I live; for one little part thereof I will be your servant everlastingly. Sure, said the Fox (Uncle) you but jest with me. But jest with you, replied Bruin? behold my heart then: for I am in that serious earnest, that for one lick the cof, you shall make me the faithful'st of all your kindred. Nay (said the Fox) if you be in earnest, then know I will bring you where so much is, that ten of you shall not be able to devour it at a meal: only for your love sake, which above all things I desire Uncle. For ten of us (said the Bear) it is impossible: for had I all the honey betwixt Hibernia and Portugal, yet I could in a short space eat it all my self. When know Uncle (quoth the Fox) that near at hand here dwellerh a husband-man named Lanter, who is master of so much honey that you cannot consume in seven years, which for your love and friendship sake I will put into your possession. Bruin mad upon the honey, swore that to have but one good meal thereof, he would not only be his faithful friend, but also stop the mouths of all his adversaries. Reynard smiling at his easie belief, said, If you will have seven Tun, Uncle you shall have it. These words pleased the Bear so well, and made him so pleasant, that he could not stand for laughing.

Well, thought the Fox, this is good fortune; sure I will lead him where he shall laugh more measurably: and then said, Uncle, we must delay no time, and I will spare no pain for your sake, which for none of my kin I would perform. The Bear gave him many thanks, and to away they went, the Fox promising him as much honey as he could bear, but meant as many strokes as he could undergo; in the end, they came to Lanter's house the night whereof made the Bear rejoice. This Lanter was a stout and lusty Carpenter, who the other day had brought into his yard a great Oak, which (as their manner is) he began to cleave, and had struck into it two wedges, in such wise, that the clef stood a great way open: at which the Fox rejoiced much, for it was answerable to his wish: so that with a smiling countenance he said to the Bear, Behold now, dear Uncle, and be careful of your self; for within this tree is so much honey, that it is unsufferable, vengeance

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elves for the
ill they have
received.



surable, try if you can get into it; yet good Uncle, eat moderately: for albeit the Combs be sweet and good, yet is surfeit is dangerous, and may be troublesome to your body, which I would not for a World, since no harm can come to you, but must be my dishonour. Sorow not for me, Nephew Reynard (said the Bear) nor think me such a fool, that I cannot temper

of Reynard the FOX.

per mine appetite It is true, my best Uncle, I was too bold; I pray you enter in at the end, and you shall find your desire. The Bear with all haste entred the tree, with his two feet forward, and thrust his head into the cleft, quite over the ears: which when the Fox perceived, he instantly ran and pulled the wedges out of the tree, so that he locked the Bear fast therein, and then neither flattery nor anger availed the Bear: for the Nephew had by his deceit brought the Uncle into so fast a prison, that it was impossible by any Art to free himself of the same. Alas! what profiteth now his great strength and valour? why, they are both causes of more vexation, and he finding himself destitute of all relief began to howl and bawl, and with scratching and tumbling, to make such a noise, that Lanfert, amazed, came hastily out of his house, having in his hand a sharp hook, whilst the Bear lay wallowing and roaring within the tree: which the Fox afar off seeing, he said to the Bear in scorn, Is the Honey good (Uncle) which you eat? how do you? eat not too much I beseech you; pleasant things are apt to surfeit, and you may hinder your journey to the Court: when Lanfert cometh (if your belly be full).



he will giue you drink to digest it, and wash it down your throat: and having thus said, he went towards the Castle. But by this time Lanfert finding the Bear fast taken in the tree, he ran to his neighbours, and desired them to come into his pard, for there is a Bear fast taken there; Which being noised thowow all the Town, there was neither man, nor woman, nor child, but ran thither; some with one weapon, and some with another, as Goads, Rakes, Broom-staves, and what they could gather up: the Priest had the handle of the Cross, the Clerk had Holy-water sprinkled; and the Priest's wife, Dame Jullock with her Distaff, for she was then spinning: Nay, the old Belbams came, that had never a tooth in their heads. This Army put Bruin into a great fear, being none but himself to withstand them, and hearing the clamour of the noise which came thundring upon him, he wozestled and pulled so extremly that he got out his head, but left behind him all the skin, and his ears also; insomuch that euer creature beheld a fouler or moze deformed Beast: for the blood covered all his face and his hands, leaving the claws and skin behind him, nothing remaining but ugliness: 'twas an ill market the Bear came to; for he lost both motion and sight, feet and eyes: but notwithstanding this torment, Lanfert, the Priest, and the whole Parish came upon him, and so be-cudgell'd him about his body parts, that it might well be a warning to all in misery, to know that euer the weakest shall still go most to the walls: This the Bear found by experience, for euer one exercised the height of their furies upon him; euen Houghlin with the crooked leg; and Ludolf with the long broad nose, the one with a leaden Ball, and the other with an iron whip, all to be-lashed poor Sir Bruin; not so much, but Sir Bertolf with the long fingers. Lanfert and Ortam did him moze annoyance than all the rest, the one having a sharp Welsh-hook, the other a crooked staff well leaded at the end, which he used to play at stat-ball with: all there was Burkin and Armes-Ablequack, Bane the Priest, with his staff, and Dame Jullock his wife: all these so be-laboured the Bear, that his life was in great danger: the poor Bear in this Massacre sate and sighed extremly, groaning under the burthen of their stroaks, of which Lanferts were the great:

greatest, and thundered most dreadfully: for dame Podge of Calport was his Mother, and his father was Marob the Staple-maker, a passing stout man when he was alone: Bruin received of him many showers of stones, till Lanferts Brother rushing before the rest with a staff, struck the Bear on the head such a blow, that he could neither hear nor see; so that awaking from the astonishment, the Bear leapt into the River adjoining, through a cluster of Willows there standing together, of which he threw divers into the water, which was large and deep, amongst whom the Parsons wife was one, which the Parson seeing how she floated like a Sea-mew, he left striking the Bear, and cryed to the rest of the company, help, oh help! Dame Jullock is in the water, help both men and Women, for whosoever saves her, I giue free pardon of all their sins and transgressions, and remit all penance imposed whatsoeuer: this heard euer one left the Bear to help dame Jullock, which as soon as the Bear saw, he cut the stream, and swam away as fast as he could; but the Priest with a great noise pursued him, crying in a great rage, Turn Willain, that I may be rebenged of thee: but the Bear swam in the strength of the stream, and suspected not his calling, for he was proud that he was escaped from them: only he bitterly curst the Honey-tree, and the Fox, which had not only betrayed him, but had made him lose his hood from his face, and his gloves from his fingers: in this sort he swam some three miles down the water, in which time he grew so weary: that he went on the Land to get ease, where blood trickled down his face; he groaned, sighed and drew his breath so short, as if his last hour had been expiring: Now whilst these things were in doing, the Fox in his way home stole a fat Hen, and threw her into his pale, a running thowow a by-path that no man might perceive him, he came to the River with infinite joy: for he suspected that the Bear was certainly slain; therefore said to himself, My fortune is as I wisht it, for the greatest enemy I had in the Court is now dead; nor can any man suspect me guilty thereof; but as he spake these words looking towards the River, he espied where Bruin the Bear lay resting, which struck his heart with grief, and he railed against Lanfert the Carpenter, saying, silly fool that thou art, what mad-man would

have lost such good venison, especially being so fat and wholesome, and for which he took no pains, for he was taken to his hand: any man would have been proud of the fortune which thou neglectest. Thus fretting and chiding he came to the River, where he found the Bear all wounded and bloody, of which Reynard was only guilty; yet in scorn he said to the Bear, Monfieur, Dieu vous grade. Thou foul red villain, said the Bear to himself, what impudence is like this? But the Fox went on with his speech, and said, What Uncle? have you forgot anything at Lanfert, or have you paid for the honey-combs you stole? if you have not, it will rebound much to your disgrace, which before you shall undergo, I will pay him for them myself; sure the honey was excellent good, and I know much more at the same price: Good Uncle, tell me before I go, into what order do you mean to enter, that you wear this new fashioned hood? will you be a Monk, an Abbot, or a Friar? surely he that shaved your crown, hath cropped your ears, also your forehead is lost, and your globes are gone, he sloben, go not bare-headed? they say you can sing Peccavi rarely. These taunts made Bruin mad with rage; but because he could not take revenge, he was content to let him talk his pleasure: then after a small rest, he plunged again into the River, and swam over the stream, and landed on the other side, where he began with much grief to meditate how he might get to the Court; for he had lost his ears, his talons, and all the skin off his feet, so that he had a thousand deaths followed him; he could not go, yet of necessity he must move, that in the end compelled by extremity, he set his buttocks on the ground, and tumbled his body over and over; so by degrees tumbling now half a mile, and then half a mile, in the end he tumbled to the Court; where divers beholding his strange manner of approach, they thought some prodigy had come towards them; but in the end the King knew him, and grew angry, saying, It is Sir Bruin my servant, what villains have wounded him thus? or where hath he been, that he brings his death thus along with him? O my dear Sovereign Lord the King (cried out the Bear) I complain grievously unto you: behold how I am massacred, which I humbly beseech you revenge on that false Reynard, who for

doing

of Reynard the FOX.

doing your Royal pleasure hath brought me to this disgrace and slaughter. When said the King, How durst he do this? now by my Crown I swear, I will take revenge, which shall make the Traytor tremble: whereupon the King sent for all his Council, and consulted, how, and in what sort to prosecute against the Fox: where it was generally concluded, that he should be again summoned to appear, and answer his trespasses; and the party to summon him, they appointed to be Tibert the Cat, as well for his gravity, as wisdom: all which pleased the King well.

CHAP. VI.

How the King sent Tibert the Cat for Reynard the FOX.

Then the King called for Sir Tibert the Cat, and said to him, Sir Tibert, you shall go to Reynard, and summon him the second time, and command him to appear, and answer his offences; for though he be cruel to other Beasts, yet to you he is courteous; assure him if he fail at the first summons, that I will take so severe a course against him, and his posterity that his example shall certify all offenders. When said Tibert the Cat, My dread Lord, they were my foes which thus advis'd you, for there's nothing in me that can force him either to come, or tarry: I beseech your Majesty send some one of greater power, I am little and feeble: besides, if noble Sir Bruin, that is so strong and mighty, could not enforce him, what will my weakness avail? The King replied, it is your wisdom, Sir Tibert, I employ, and not your strength; and many prevail with Art, when violence returns with lost labour: Well, said the Cat, since it is your pleasure, it must be accomplished, heaven make my fortune better than my heart presageth: Thus Tibert made things in readiness, and went to Malepardus, and in his journey, he saw some flying towards him one of Saint Martins Birds, to whom the Cat cried aloud, hail gentle-bird: I beseech thee turn thy wings and fly on my right hand: but the bird turned the contrary way, and flew on the left side; then grew the Cat very hateful, for he was wise and skilful in Augurism, and knew the go, is express,

The Moral.
By the sending of the Cat to fetch the Fox, is express the care of Government, that when they have been deceived by the pride and ostentation of such as they did employ, and thought discreet, that then they seek out those that are known wise, and employ them, because wisdom is greater wisdom. In the Cats much loathsomeness to sign the unwilling-

ness a wife man
hath to meddle
in dangerous
matters, especi-
ally when they
hold the party
with who n
they have to
do, of a reach
far beyond
them: yet
when authori-
ty commands,
they must
obey: though
never so many
dangers attend.

sign to be ominous; nevertheless (as many do) he armed him-
self with better hope, and went to Malepardus, where he found
the Fox standing before the Castle-gates, to whom Tibert said,
Health to my fair Cousin Reynard: so it is, that the King by
me summons you to the Court; in which, if you fail or defer
time, there is nothing more assured unto you than a cruel
and a sudden death. The Fox answered, Welcome dear Cou-
sin Tibert, I obey your command, and with my Lord the King
infinite days of happiness; only let me intreat you to rest
with me to night, and take such cheer as my simple house
affordeth, and to morrow as early as you will, we will go to-
wards the Court, for I have no Kinsman I trust so dear as
your self. Here was with me the other day, the treacherous
Knight Sir Bruin the Bear, who lookt upon me with that
cruelty, that I would not for the wealth of an Em-
pire hazard my person with him, but my dear Cousin, with
you I will go, were a thousand sicknesses upon me. Tibert re-
plied, You speak like a noble Gentleman, and methinks it is
best now to go forward, for the Moon shines as bright as day.
Nay, dear Cousin (said the Fox) let us take day before us, so
may we encounter with our friends; the night is full of dan-
ger, and suspicions. Well said the Cat, if it be your pleasure,
I am content: what shall we eat? Reynard said, truly my store
is small, the best I have is a honey-comb, too pleasant and sweet,
what think you of it? Tibert replieth, it is meat I little re-
spect, and seldom eat: I had rather have one Mouse, than all the
honey in Europe. A mouse (said Reynard) why my dear cousin,
here dwelleth a Priest hard by, who hath a Barn by his house
so full of mice, that I think half the Mice in the Parish are
not able to bear them. O dear Reynard (quoth the Cat) do
but lead me thither, and make me your servant for ever: why
(said the Fox) but loke you mice so exceedingly? Beyond ex-
pression (quoth the Cat) why a mouse is beyond benison, or
the delicatest cates on Princes Tables: therefore conduct me
thither, and command my friendship in any matter: had you
slain my father, my mother, and all my kin, I would clearly
forgive you.

C H A P. VII.

How Tibert the Cat was deceived by Reynard
the F O X.

THE P said Reynard, Sure you do but jest. No by my
life, said the Cat. Well then (quoth the Fox) if you be in
earnest, I will so work, that this night will I fill your belly;
'tis not possible, said the Cat: then follow me, said the Fox,
for I will bring you to the place presently: thus away they
went with all speed to the Priests Barn, which was well
walled about with a mud-wall, where but the night before
the Fox had broken in, and stole from the Priest an exceed-
ing fat Hen; at which the Priest was so angry, that he had
set a grin or snare before the hole, to catch him at his next
coming, which the false Fox knew perfectly, and therefore said
to the Cat, Sir Tibert, creep in at this hole, and believe it
you shall not tarry a minutes space, but you shall have more
mice than you are able to devour: hark, you may hear how
they squeek: when your belly is full, come again, and
I will stay and wait for you here at this hole, that too mor-
row we may go together to the Court: but good Cousin stay
not too long, for I know my Wife will hourly expect us.
Then (said the Cat) think you I may safely enter in at
this hole? these Priests are wise and subtle, and couch
their danger oft close, that rashness is soon overtaken, My
Cousin Tibert (said the Fox) I never saw you turn coward
before; what man, fear you a shadow? The Cat ashamed
at his fear, sprang quickly in at the hole, but was presently
caught fast by the neck in the Grin, which as soon as the
Cat felt and perceived, he quickly leapt back again: so that
the snare running close together, he was half strang-
led, so that he began to struggle and cry out, and re-
claim most piteously: Reynard stood before the hole and
heard



heard all, at which he infinitely rejoiced, and in great scorn said, Cousin Tibert, love you mice? I hope they be well fed for your sake? knew the Priest or Martinet of your feasting, I know them of so good disposition

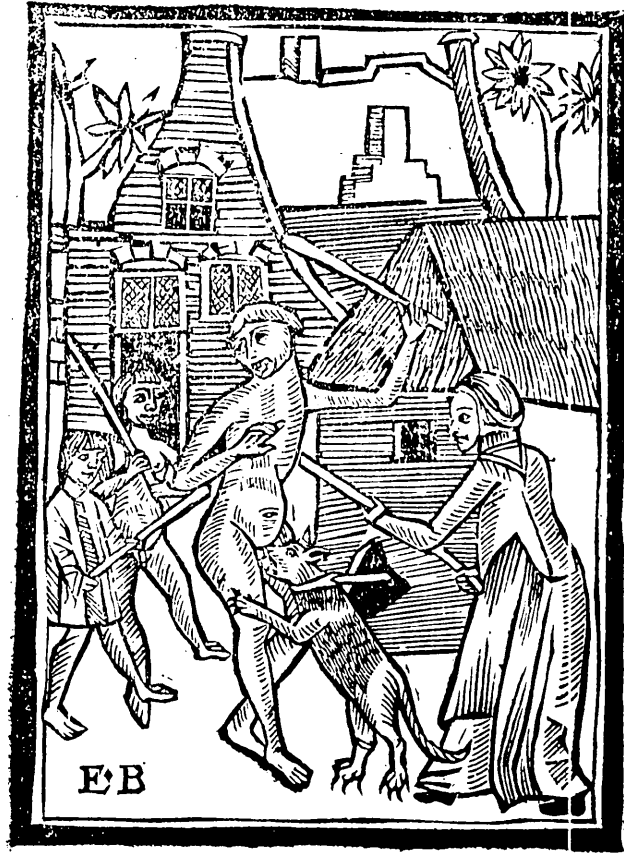
position, they would bring you sauce quickly; methinks you sing at your meat, is that the Court-fashion? if it be, I would I might the Wolf were coupled with you, that all my friends might be feasted together:

But all this while the poor Cat was fast, and mewed so piteously, that Martinet leapt out of his bed, and cried to his people, Arise, for the thief is taken that hath stolen our Hens:

With these words the Priest unfortunately rose up, and awaked all in his house, crying, the Fox is taken, the Fox is taken: and arising stark naked, he gave to Jullock his wife an offering candle to light, and then coming first to Tibert, he smote him with a great staff, and after him many others: so that the Cat received many deadly blows, and the anger of Martinet was so great, that he struck out one of the Cats eyes, which he did to second the naked Priest, thinking at one blow to dash out the Cats brains: but the Cat perceiving his death so near him, in a desperate mood he leapt between the Priests legs, and with his claws and teeth so fastened on his genitals, that in all the great Turks Seraglio, there was not a clearer Eunuch: which when dame Jullock his wife saw, she cried out and swooze, she had rather have lost the whole offerings of one seven years, than that one poor little mouse: and withall cursd that ever the Gin was invented: and calling Martinet, See, my Son, this thy fathers delight, and my Jewel, but it is now spoiled, to his shame and my utter loss for ever: for howsoever he be cured, yet to me he can never more be comfortable.

All this while Reynard stood before the hole, and saw what passed, and laughed so extremely, that his body was ready to break; saying to Dame Jullock, Fire Woman, do not torment your self so, the Priest hath lost but one stone, you may yet receive one benevolence. Now whilst the Fox thus stood the Priests wife the poor

The Moral.
By the Fox insinuating the Cat is exprest, how when men will trust their enemies, or give credit to reconciled friends, they even more miscarry in their designs, and therefore every wife man should be temper his affections, that he grow not fond of any thing in his enemies power, how agreeable soever it be, either with his nature or his pallat. For the baits are only gilded Pills, which are fair to look on, but most bitter to taste. By the mischief which the Priest received, is shewed that they which him watch, harm catch, and that the trap which men now and then set for others, brings hurt to themselves.



poor Priest fell down in a swoond: so that every man left the Cat, to revive the Priest: which whilst they were doing, the Fox returned home to Malepardus, for he imagined the Cat was past all hope of escape: but the poor Cat

being

seeing all his foes busy about the Priest, he presently began to gnaw and bite the cord, till he had shared it quite asunder in the midst, which done, he leapt out of the hole, and went roaring and tumbling (like the Bear) to the Kings Court. But before he got thither, it was far day, and the Sun being risen, he entered the Court, like the pitifullest Beast that ever was beheld. For by the Fox's craft, his body was beaten and bruised, his bones shivered and broken; one of his eyes lost, and his skin rent and mangled. This when the King beheld, and saw Tibert so pitifully mangled, he grew infinitely angry, and took counsel once more, how to revenge the injuries upon the Fox. After some consultation, Grimbard the Brock Reynard's sisters son; said to the rest of the Kings Council, my good Lords, though my Uncle were twice as evil as these complaints make him, yet there is remedy enough against his mischiefs, therefore it is fit you do him Justice as to a man of his rank, which is, he must be the third time summoned, and then if he appear not, make him guilty of all that is laid against him. Then the King demanded of the Brock, whom he thought fittest to summon him, or who should be so desperate to hazard his hands, his ears, nay, his life, with one so tyrannous and irreligious? Truly (answered the Brock) if it please your Majesty, I am that desperate person, who dare adventure to carry the message to my most subtle Kinsman, if your Highness but command me.

CHAR. VIII.

How Grimbard the Brock was sent to bid the FOX to the COURT.

Then said the King, Go Grimbard, for I command you: yet take heed of Reynard, for he is subtle and malicious: The Brock thanked his Majesty, and so taking his humble leave, went to Malepardus, where he found Reynard and Ermelin his wife, sporting with their young whelps; then having saluted his Uncle and his Aunt, he said: Take heed fair Uncle, that

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your

The Moral. In the lending of the Brock to fetch the Fox, is shewed, that when the vicious cannot be overtaken and brought to answer, then it is meet to use their own weapons against them, and with policy, which can no way be better done than by employing their own kindred, and such as they most dearly affect, to perswade them, because Affection is ever a prevailing Orator.



of Reynard the FOX.

there is not left to you or yours any hope of mercy; for within three days your Castle will be demolished, your kindred made slaves, and your self exempted for a publick example. Therefore my best Uncle, I beseech you recollect your wisdom, and go with me presently to the Court. I doubt not but your discretion shall excuse you, for you have past thowds many as eminent perils, and made your face ashamed, whilst the Innocency of your cause hath born you spotless from the Tribunal. Reynard answered, Nephew, you say true, and I will be advised and go with you, not to answer offences, but in that I know the Court stands in need of my Counsel; the Kings mercy I doubt not, if I may come to speak with his Majesty, though mine offences were ten times doubled; for I know that the Court cannot stand without me, and that shall his Highness understand truly; though I know I have many enemies, yet it troubles me not, for mine innocence shall awaken their injuries, and they shall know that in high matters of State and Policy, Reynard cannot be missing. They may well harp upon things, but the pitch and ground must come from my relation: It is the envy of others hath made me leave the Court; for though I know their shallowness cannot disgrace me, yet may their multitudes appress me: Nephew, theless (Nephew) I will go with you to the Court, and answer for my self, and not hazard the welfare of my Wife and Children; the King is too mighty, and though he do me injury I will bear it with patience. This spoke, he turned to his Wife, and said, Dame Ermelin, have a care of my children, specially Reynikin my youngest Son, for he has much of my love, and I hope will follow my steps; and Rosset is passing hopeful, and I love them intirely; therefore regard them, and if I escape, doubt not but my love shall requite you. At this leave-taking, Ermelin wept, and her children howled; for their Lord and victualler was gone, and Malpeardus left unprovided.

C H A P. IX.

How Reynard throwe him to Grimbarde the Brock.

The Moral.

The strict of the Fox, sheweth, That when evil men are in danger, then they ever find most Religion; and by a shew of a penitence, win pity from all those that dive not into the depth of their deceit & knavery. Whereby though they be never so evil, yet they get a good name, and steal opinion of the multitude. By the absolution which the Brock gave the Fox, is shewed how easily an honest simple man may be brought to believe a knaves penance, and how apt they are to forgive trespasses upon a fained sorrow; which indeed should not be done without

W H E N Reynard and Grimbarde had gone a good way on their journey, Reynard staped, and said, Dear nephew, blame me now if my heart be full of care; for my life is in great hazard; perdo blot out my sins with repentance, and to cast off the burden, give me leave to strike my self unto you; I know you are holy: and having received penance for my sin, my soul will be quiet. Grimbarde bid him proceed. Then said the Fox, Confess your ribs Paton. Nay, said the Brock, if you will strike to me, do it in English that I may understand you: Then said Reynard, I have grievously offended against all the Beasts that live, and especially mine Uncle Bruin the Bear, whom I lately massacred; and Tibert the Cat, whom I ensnared in a grin: I have trespassed against Chantecler and his Children, and have devoured many of them; nay, the King hath not been quit of my malice, for I have slandered him and his Queen. I have betrayed Isegrim the Wolf, and called him Uncle, though no part of his blood ran in my veins. I made him a Monk of Elmore, where I became also one of the Order, only to do him open mischief. I made him bind his foot to the Bell-rope to teach him to ring, but the Deaf had like to have cost him his life: the men of the Parish beat and wounded him so sore: after this I taught him to catch fish, but he was soundly beaten therefore, and feeleth the laces at this instant. I led him to steal Bacon at a rich Priest's house, where he fed so extremely, that not being able to get out where he got in, I raised all the town upon him, and then went where the Priest was set at meat with a fat Hen before him: which Hen I snatched away, so that the Priest cried out, Kill the Fox, for never man saw any thing so strange, that the Fox should come into my house, and take my meat from before me: This is a boldness beyond knowledge: and with these words he threw his



his Knife at me, but he missed me, and I ran away, whilst he pursued me, crying, Kill the Fox, kill the Fox; and after him a world of people, whom I led to the place where Isegrim was, and there I let my Hen fall, for it was too heavy for me (yet much against my will) and then springing through a hole, I got into safety. Now as the Priest took up the Hen, he espied Isegrim, and then cried out, Strike, friends, strike, here is the Wolf, by no means let him escape us: When the people came all together, with clubs and staves,

a more strict and severe examination, The Fox's leading the Brock by the Monastery and taking the Canon, sheweth, that where wickedness is rooted and made as it were a habit, that there notwithstanding all, hypocrisy will still flash out, and a knave will be a knave in despite of all persuasions and good counsel.

The Pleasaut History



and with a dreadful noise, giving the poor Wolf many a deadly blow, and some throwing stones after him, hit him such mortal blows on the holp, that the Wolf fell down as if he had been dead, which perceived, they took him and drag'd him by the heels over Rocks and Stones, and in the end they set him into

of Reynard the FOX.

into a ditch without the Village, and there he lay all night; but how he got thence I know not. Another time I led him to a place where I told him were seven Cocks and Hens set on a perch all lusty and fat, and hard by the place stood a false dooz, on which we climbed: When I told him if he could creep in at that dooz, he should find the Hens. When he grim with much joy went laughing to the dooz, and entering in a little, and groping about, he said, Reynard you abuse me, for here is nothing: When replied I, Uncle they are further, and if you will have them, you must adventure for them: Those which used to sit there, I my self had long since; at this the Wolf going a little further, I gave him a push forward, so that he fell down into the House, and his fall was so great, and made such a noise, that they which were asleep in the House, awaked and cried, that something was fallen down, at the trap-dooz; whereupon they arose, and lighted a candle, esping him, they beat and wounded him to death. Thus I brought the Wolf to many hazards of his life, more then I can now either remember or reckon, which as they come to my mind, I will reveal to you hereafter. I have also grievously offended against Dame Arsewende his wife, of which I must repent me, for it was highly to her dishonour. Uncle, said Grimbard, I understand you not, you make your story imperfect, for you say you have offended, but declare not in what. Maroon me Nephew, I know you hate to hear dishonour of Women: The truth is I have lain with her: Thus have I told you my wickedness, now order my penance as shall seem fit in your discretion. Now Grimbard was both learned and wise, and therefore brake a rod from a tree, and said, Nephew, you shall three times strike your body with this rod, then lay it down upon the ground, and spring three times over it without bowing of your legs, or stumbling: then shall you rake it up, and kiss it gently, in sign of your meekness and obedience to your penance: which done, you are absolved of your sins committed to this day, for I pronounce unto you clear remission. At this the fox was exceeding glad, and then Grimbard said unto him, See that henceforth,

Uncle,

The Pleasant History

Uncle, you do good works, read your Psalter, go to Church, fast Vigils, keep Holy-days, give alms, and leave your sinful and evil life, your theft and your treason, and then no doubt you shall obtain mercy. The Fox promised to perform all this; and so they went together towards the Court. But a little besides the way as they went, stood a Religious house of Nuns, where many Geese, Hens and Capons, went without the wall: and as they went talking the Fox led Grim-bard out of his right way to that place, and finding the Bullen walking without the Barn, amongst which was a fat young Capon, which strayed a little from his fellows: at which he suddenly leapt, and caught him by the feathers, which flew about his ears; but the Capon escaped: which Grim-bard seeing, said, Accursed man, what will you do, will you for a silly Bullen fall again into all your sins? mischief it self would not do it: to which Reynard answered, Pardon me Dear Nephew, I had forgotten my self, but I will ask forgiveness, and mine eye shall no more wander. And then they turned over



a little

of Reynard the FOX.

A little while; but the Fox still glanced his eye towards the Bullen, and could by no means refrain it; for the ill that was bred in his bones still stuck to his flesh, and his mind carried his eyes that way as long as he could see them: which the Wrook noting, said, Fie, disssembling Cousin, why wander your eyes so after the Bullen? The Fox replied, Nephew, you do me injury so to mistake me, for mine eyes wandred not, but I was saying a Pater Noster for the souls of all the Bullen and Geese which I have slain and betrayed, in which devotion you hindered me. Well, said Grim-bard, it may be so, but your glances are suspicious. Now by this time they were come into the way again, and made hast towards the Court, which as soon as the Fox saw, his heart quaked for fear: for he knew well the crimes he was to answer, for they were infinite and hainous.

CHAP. X.

How the Fox came into the Court, and how he excused himself.

As soon as it was bruited in the Court that Reynard the Fox, and Grim-bard his kinsman were arrived there, every one from the highest to the lowest, prepared himself to complain of the Fox: at which Reynards heart quaked, but his countenance kept the old garb, and he went as proudly as ever he was wont, with his Nephew through the street, and came as gallantly into the Court, as if he had been the Kings son, and as clear from trespass, as the most innocent whatsoeuer: and when he came before the chair of State in which the King sat, he said, Heaven give your Majesty glory and re towne above all the Princes of the earth: I assure your Highness there is never King had a truer servant than my self have been to you, and yet am, and so will die: Nevertheless (my dread Lord) I know there be many in this Court that seek my confusion, if they could win belief in your Majesty; but you scorn the slanders of malice, and although in these



The Moral. Days, flatterers have the most room in Princes Courts, yet with you it is not so, nor shall they reap any thing but shame for their labour. But the King cut him short at these words, and said, Peace, traitorous Reynard, I know your dissimulation, and can expound your flattery, but both shall now fail you: think you I can be caught with the musick of your words? no, it hath too often deceived me: the Peace which I commanded and swore unto, that have you broken. And for all men that have been injured, to utter their complaints, because then only redress is to be had. In the Lion is express the lawfulness of Justice, and how terrible it is to every offender, especially such as have the guilt of Conscience within them. The Foxer bold behaviour shews, That impudent Malefactors when they are called in question, make audacity their chief guard; and by railing against their adversaries, do seek to extenuate the looseness of their offences; but Truth and Justice will not be hood-winked.

as he would have gone forward, Chantecler crying out, How have I lost this noble Peace, be still Chantecler (said the King) and then he proceeded. Thou Devil among good ones; with what face canst thou say thou lovest me, and seest all those wretched creatures ready to disprove thee, whose very wounds yet spit bloody defiance upon thee: and for which believe, thy dearest life shall answer; In nomine Patris, &c. said the Fox, My dread Lord, if Bruin's crown be bloody, what is that to me? if your Majesty employed him in a message, and he would neglect it to steal Honey at the Carpenters house, where he received his wounds, how shall I amend it? If revenge be sought, why did he not take it himself? he is strong and puissant, it was not for to be looked on as my weakness. As for Tibert the Cat (whom I received with all friendship) if he against my will or advice, will steal into the Priests Barn to catch mice, and there lose his eyes, nay his life, wherein is my offence? or how become I their guardian? My dread Lord, you may do your Royal pleasure; and however mine innocence plead, yet your will may adjudge me to what death contents you: I am your vassal, and have no support but your mercy: I know your strength and mine own weakness, and that my death can yield you but small satisfaction: yet whatsoever your will is, that to me shall be most acceptable. And as he thus spake, Bellin the Ram slept forth, and his Cow-dame Oseway, and besought the King to hear their complaint; with them Bruin the Bear, and all his mighty lineage: And Tibert the Cat, Ilegim the Wolf, Kayward the Hare, and Panther the Boar, the Cammel, and Bruel the Goose, the Kid and the Colt, Bauldwin the Ass, Bortel the Bull, and Hammel the Doe, the Weasel, Chantecler the Cock, and Patterl with all her Children. All these with one entire noise cried out against the Fox, and so moved the King with their complaint, that the Fox was taken and arrested.

How the Fox was arrested and judged to DEATH.

Upon this Arrest a Parliament was called, and every voice went that Reynard should be executed: notwithstanding he answered every objection several, though great Art was used both in the one and the other, to the wonderful admiration of all that heard him: But witnesses examined and every proof made pregnant, the Fox was condemn'd and judgment was given, that he should be hanged till his body were dead. At which sentence the Fox cast down his head for all his Jollity was lost, and no flattery, no nor words now prebailed. This done, Grimbold his Nephew, and divers others near him in blood (which could not endure to see him die) took their leave of the King, and departed from the Court. When the King noted what Gallant young Gentlemen departed thence all sad and weeping, being near of the Foxes blood and alliance, he said to himself, It behoves us to take good mature counsel; though Reynard have some faults, yet he hath many friends and more virtues. As the King was thus thinking, the Cat said to the Bear, Sir Bruin and you Sir Isegrim, Why are you so slow in this Execution: the time is almost come, and here be many bushes and hedges, if he escape and quit himself of this danger, his subtilty is so great, that not all the Art in the World shall ever again intangle him: If you mean to execute him, then proceed, for before the Gallows can be made, it will be dark night. At these words Isegrim remembering himself, said, Where is a pair of Gallows near at hand (and with that he chyd a deep sigh) which he noting, said, Are you afraid Sir Isegrim? or is this execution against your mind? you may remember it only was his work, that both your brethren were hanged: and sure had you Judgment, you would hang him for the same, and not thus stand trifling time. But Isegrim, half angry, answered, Your anger puts out the eye of your reason; yet had we a halter that would fit his neck, we would soon dispatch him. Reynard that had been

of Reynard the FOX:

silent a great while, said, I beseech you shorten my pain: Sir Tibert hath a cord strong enough, in which himself was



hang'd at the Priest's house, when he bit off the Priest's gentles: besides he can climb well and swift: let him be mine Executioner, for it neither becometh Isegrim nor Bruin thus

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The Moral.

By the violence of the Bear, the Wolf, and the Cat, in pursuing the Fox to death and making themselves executioners, is shewed the great malice of great persons against their enemies, and such from whom they have received mischief, in which they will many times rather hazard their honours than their revenges, to blind wrath, and so deformed it makes men that are clothed therewith. The Fox's patience and mild temper, shews That when men are in extremity, they must make use of all their virtues, especially meekness, for that soonest doth insinuate with mens natures, and draws forth pity. Whereas roughness ever increaseth mischief.

to do with their Nephew: I am sorry I live to see it. But since you are set to be my hangman, play your parts and delay not: go before Bruin and lead my way: for I am Ilegim, and beware I escape not: you say well, said Bruin, and it is the best counsel I have heard you give. So forth they went, and Ilegim and all his friends guarded the Fox, leading him by the neck, and other parts of his body: when the Fox felt this usage, he was dismayed; yet, said, Why do you put your selves (my best Kinsman) to this pain, to do me hurt? believe it I could well ask you forgiveness, though my pains be pleasant unto you: yet well I know, did my Aunt your wife understand of my trouble, she would for old affection sake not see me thus tormented. But I am subject to your will, and can endure your worst malice: as for Bruin and Tibert, I leave my revenge to Justice, and with you the reward of Traitors, if you do not to me the worst of your powers: I know my worst fortune, and death can come but once unto me; I wish it were past already, for to me it is no terror: I saw my Father die, and how quickly he vanished, therefore the worst of death is familiar unto me. When said Ilegim, let us go, for his curse shall not light on me by delaying: So he on the one side, and Bruin on the other, led the poor Fox to the Gallows; Tibert running before with the halter, hoped to be revenged of his wrong formerly received. When they were come to the place of Execution, the King and Queen, and all the rest of the Nobility, took their place to see the Fox die. When Reynard full of sorrow, and busily berinking himself how he might escape that danger, and how to enthrall and disgrace his proud enemies, and also how to drave the King on his party, saying to himself, Though the King and many others be offended with me, as they have reason, for I have thoroughly deserted it; nevertheless yet I hope to live to be their best friend. During this meditation the Wolf said, Sir Bruin, now remember your injuries, take your revenge in a full measure, for the day is come to which for; Tibert ascent quickly and bring the rope to the gal-

lows,

of Reynard the F O X.

lows, making a running noose, for this day you shall have your will of your enemy: and good Sir Bruin take heed he escape not, whilst I my self raise up the Ladder. When all things were prepared, the Fox said, Now may my heart be heavy, for Death stands now in all his horrors before me, and I cannot escape: my dread Lord the King, and you my Sovereign Lady the Queen, and you my Lords that stand to behold me die, I beseech you grant me this charitable Boon, that I may unlock my heart before you, and clear my soul of her burdens, so that hereafter no man may be blamed for me; which done, my death will be easie, and the Assistance of your prayers will raise my soul to Heaven.

CHAP. XII.

How Reynard made his Confession before the KING.

Every creature now took compassion on the Fox, and said his request was small, beseeching the King to grant it: which was done. And then the Fox thus spake: Help me, Heaven! for I see no man here whom I have not offended: yet was this evil or natural inclination in me, for in my youth I was accounted as virtuous as any breathing: this know, I played with the Lambs all the day long, and took delight in their pretty bleating; yet at last in my play I bit one, and the taste of the blood was so sweet, that since I could never forbear it. This liquorish humour drave me into the Woods among the Goats, where hearing the bleating of the little Kids, I slew one of them, and after, two more, which slaughter made me so hardy, that then I felt to murder Hens, Geese, and other Fowl. And thus my crimes increased by custom, and surp so possess me, that all was fish which came to my net. After this (in the winter season) I met with Ilegim, whereas he lay hid under a hollow tree, and he unfolded unto me how he was my Uncle, and laid the pedigree down so plain, that from that day forth we became fellows and companions: which knot of friendship I may ever curse, for then began the flood of our thefts and slaughters: he

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he stole the great things, & the small, he murdered Nobles,
 & the meanest Subjects: and in all his actions his share still



was ever the greatest: when he got a ram, a Calf or
 either, his ship would hardly afford me the box as to pick
 on? nay, when he had an Oxe, or a Cow, after himself, his
 wife,

of Reynard the FOX.

wife and his seven children were served, nothing remained
 to me but the bare bones to pick on. This I speak not in that
 I wanted (for it is well known I have more Plate, Jewels,
 and Coyne, than twenty Carts are able to carry) but only to
 shew his ingratitude. When the King heard him speak of this
 infinite Treasure and Riches, his heart grew inflamed with
 desire thereof: and he said Reynard where is that Treasure
 you spoke of? The Fox answered, My Lord I shall willing-
 ly tell you, for it is true, the wealth was stoln, and had it
 not been stoln in that manner as it was, it had cost
 your Highness his life (which Heavens I beseech keep ever
 in their protection.) When the Queen heard that dangerous
 speech, she started, and said, What dangers are these you
 speak of, Reynard: I do command you upon your soules health,
 to unfold these doubtful speeches, and to keep nothing con-
 cealed which concerns the life of my dread Lord. The Fox
 with a sorrowful and sad countenance replied to the Queen,
 O my dread Sovereign Lady, at what infinite ease were I,
 if I might dye at this present: but gracious Goddam, your
 conjuration, and the health of mine own soul, so prebaileth
 with me, that I will discharge my conscience, and yet
 speak nothing but what I will make good with the hazard of
 damnation. 'Tis true, the King should have been pitiously
 murdered by his own people, and I must confess, by those
 of my nearest kindred, whom I am unwilling to accuse, did
 not the health of mine own soul, and the fealty to the King
 command the contrary: The King much perplexed at this dis-
 covery, said, Is this true, Reynard, which you protest? the
 Fox answered, Alas, my dread Lord, you see the case where-
 in I stand, and how small a sand is left in my poor glass to
 run: Can your Majesty imagine I will now dissemble? what
 can the whole world avail me, when my soul perisher? and
 at that he trembled, and look'd so pitifully, that the Queen
 had great compassion of him, and humbly besought the King
 for the safety of his own Royal Person to take some pity
 of the Fox, and command all his Subjects to hold their peace,
 and keep silent till he had spoke the uttermost of his know-
 ledge: all which was presently done, and the Fox proceeded in
 this manner: Since it is the pleasure of my Sovereign
 Lord

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The Moral. Lord the King, and that his Royal life lieth in the balance with my present death, I will freely and boldly unfold this capital and foul treason, and in the relation not spare any guilty person for any respect whatsoever, whether in blood, greatness, or Authority: Know then, my dread Sovereign Lord the King, that my Father by a strange accident, digging in the ground, found out King Ennetick's treasure; being a mass infinite and innumerable, of which being possess, he grew so proud and haughty; that he beheld in scorn all the Beasts of the wilderness, which before had been his kinsmen and companions; at last he caused Tibert the Cat to go into the vast Forrest of Arden to Bruin the Bear, and to render him his homage and fealty: saying, *If it would please him to be King, he should come into Flanders, where my Father received him nobly.* Then presently he sent for his wife, Grimbard my Nephew, and for Hegrim the Wolf, and for Tibert the Cat: then these five coming together, Gaunt and the Willage called Elfe, they held a solemn Council for the space of a whole night: in which by the assistance of the Devil, and the strong confidence of my Fathers riches; it was then concluded, that the accusing *your Majesty* should be forthwith murdered, which to effect, they took a solemn Oath in this manner: *The Bear, my Father, Grimbard, and the Cat; laying their hands on Hegrim's Crown, swore first to make Bruin their King, and to place him in the Chair of Estate at Acon, and to set the Imperial Diadem on his head: and if by any of your Majesties blood and alliance they should be gain-sayed, that then my Father with his treasure should hire those that should utterly chase and root them out of the Forrest.* Now after this determination held and finished, it hapned that my Nephew Grimbard being on a time high-swayn with mine, he discovered this damnable Plot to Dame Slopard his Wife; commanding her upon her life to keep secret the treason to my Wife, as they went a Pilgrimage over all *Heath*, with like conjuration of secrecy: but she (woman-like) contained it no longer then till she met with me, and gave me a full knowledge of all that passed; yet so, that by

of *Reynard* the F O X.

means I must keep in secret too : for he had sworn by the three Kings of Cullen never to disclose it ; and withall he gave me such assurance by certain tokens, that I right well found all was true which he had spoken . insomuch , that the very affright thereof made my hair stand upright , and my heart became like Lead , cold and heavy in my bosome , which made me call to mind the Story of the Frogs , who being free without subjection , complained to Jupiter , and desired they might have a King to rule and govern over them , and he presently sent them a Toad which eat and debonned them up : so that by his Tyranny they became the most miserable of all creatures ; then they complained again to Jupiter for redress , but it was then too late ; for they that could not be content with their freedom , must now of necessity suffer in thralldom .

Thus I feared it might happen with us, and thus I sorrowed for your Majesty, although you little respect my grieving: I know that the Ambition of the Bear and his Tyranny is so great, that should the Government come into his hands (as Heaven forbid) the whole Commonwealth will be destroyed: Besides, I know your Majesty of so Royal and Princely birth, so mighty, so gracious, and so merciful, that it had been a damnable exchange, to have seen a ravenous Bear to sit in the Throne of a Royal Lion; for there is in the Bear and in his generation, more prodigal looseness and inconstancy, than in any Beast whatsoever.

But to proceed, from this sorrow I began to meditate how I might undo my Fathers false and wicked conspiracies, who sought to bring a Traytor and a Slave into the Throne Imperial: for I well perceived, as long as he held the Treasure, there was a possibility of deposing your Majesty, and this troubled my thoughts exceedingly, so that I laboured how I might find out where my Fathers Treasure was hid, and to that end I watcht and attended night and day in the Woods, in the Bushes, and in the open fields: nay, in all places wheresoever my Father turn'd his eyes, there was I ever watching and attending,

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Now

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Now it happened on a time as I was laid flat 'pon the ground, I saw my Father come running out of a hole,



and as soon as he was come out, he gazed round about him, to see if any discovered him; then seeing the coast clear, he

stopped

of Reynard the FOX.

stopped the hole with sand, and made it so even, smooth, and plain, that no curious eye could discern a difference betwixt it and the other earth: and where the print of his foot remained, that with his tail he stroked over, and with his mouth so smoothed it, that no man might perceive it: and indeed that and many other subtilties I learned of him there at that instant: when he had thus finished, away he went towards the Village about his private affairs: then went I presently towards the hole, and notwithstanding all his subtilty, I quickly found it out; then entred I the Cave, where I found that innumerable quantity of Treasure, which cannot be expressed: which found, I took Ermelin my wife to help me, and we ceased not day nor night; with infinite great toyle and labour, to carry and convey away this Treasure to another place, much more convenient for us, where we laid it safe from the search of any creature. Now during the time that my wife and I were thus employed, my Father was in consultation with the rest of the Traptors about the death of the King: in which consultation it was concluded that Isegrim the Wolf should travel over all the Kingdom, and promise to all the Beasts that would take wages, and acknowledge Bruin for their Sovereign, and defend his Title, a full years pay before-hand. And in this journey my Father accompanied him, carrying Letters Patents signed to that purpose, little suspecting that he was rob'd of the wealth which should supply his Treason: when this negotiation was finished between Elve and Soam, and a world of valiant Souldiers raised against the beginning of the next spring: then they returned to Bruin and his Consorts, to whom they declared the many perils they had escaped in the Dukedom of Saxony, where they were pursued by Huntsmen and Hounds: so as they hardly escaped with life: after this relation, they shewed Bruin the Muster-rolls, which pleased him exceeding much, for here was of Isegrim's lineage about twelve hundred sworn to the action, besides the Bears own kindred, the Foxes, the Cats, and the Waffens, all which would be in readiness upon an hours warning. All this I found

our

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ut (I praise Heaven) by perfect intelligence : Now things being brought to this perfection, my Father went to his Cave of Treasure : but when he found it open, spoil'd and ransackt, it is not in me to express the infinite agony and sorrow he fell into, that grief converting to madness, and madness to desperation, suddenly he went to the next Tree and hanged himself.

Thus by my Art only was the treason of Bruin defeated, for which I now suffer : from hence spring all misfortune, as thus, the Kings Priviest-Council, and sitting in high. These foul Traptors Bruin and Hegrim, being of great Authority, tread upon me poor Reynard, and work my disgrace : notwithstanding for your Majesties sake, I have lost my natural Father. O my dread Lord ! what is he, or who can tender you better affection, thus to love himself to save you ? The King and Queen having great hope to get this inestimable Treasure from Reynard, took him from the Gibbet, and entreated him to unfold where this great Treasure was. But the Fox replied, O my Lord, shall I make mine enemies my heirs ? Shall these Traptors which take away my life, and would devour yours, be possessors of the good I enjoy ? No, that's a madnes I'll never dye guilty of. Then said the Queen, fear not Reynard, the King shall save your life, and grant you pardon, and you shall henceforth swear Faith and true Allegiance to his Majesty. The Fox answered, Dearest Madam, if the King out of his Royal nature will give credit to my truth, and forgive my former offences, there was never King so rich as I will make him. When the King staying the Queen, said, Madam will you believe the Fox ? know you not that it is his natural quality to lye, steal, and deceive ? The Queen answered, my dear Lord, now you may boldly believe him, for however in his prosperity he was full of errors, yet now you may see he is changed : Why, he spareth not to accuse his own Father, nay, Grimbold his nearest Depheto and kinsman ? had he dissembled, he might have laid his imputation on other Beasts, and not on those he loveth most intirely. Well Madam (said the King) you shall at this time rule me, and all the offen-

ces

of Reynard the FOX.

ces of the Fox I will clearly pardon : yet with this Protestation, That if ever again he offend in the smallest crime whatsoever, that not only himself, but his whole generation, I will utterly root out of my Dominions. The Fox looked sadly when the King spake thus (but was inwardly most infinitely glad at his heart) and said, my dread Lord, it were a huge shame in me, should I speak any untruths in this great presence. When the King taking a straw from the ground pardoned the Fox of all his trespasses which either he, or his Father, had ever committed : If the Fox now began to smile, it was no wonder, the sweetness of life required it : yet he fell down before the King and Queen, and humbly thanked them for their mercy, protesting that for that favour he would make them the richest Princes in the World. And at these words the Fox took up a straw, and proffered it unto the King, and said to him, My dread Lord, I beseech your Majesty to receive this Wledg as a surrender unto your Majesty of all the Treasure that the great King HERMETICK was master of, with which I freely enfeoffe you out of my meer voluntary and free motion. At these words the King received the straw, and smiling, gave the Fox great thanks for the same. But the Fox laughed out-right to think of the abuse. From that day forward no mans counsel pretailed with the King as the Foxes ; which the Fox seeing, said to the King, My gracious Lord, you shall understand, that at the West side of FLANDERS there standeth a Wood called HUSTERLOE, near which runneth a River named CREKENPIT : this is a Wilderness so vast, and unpassable, that hardly in all the year there cometh either Man or Woman in the same. In it have I hid this Treasure, whither I would have your Majesty and the Queen to go, for I know none but your selves whom I dare trust in so great a design : and when your Highness comes thither, you shall find two Birch trees growing by the pit, into which you shall enter, and there you shall find the Treasure, which consisteth of the Crown, rich Jewels, and the

wealthy

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wealthy Crown which King Ermetick wore. With which Crown Bruin the Bear should have been Crowned, if his treason had succeeded according to his determination: there shall you see also many rich and costly precious stones, of which when you are possess, then remember the lobe of your servant Reynard. The King answered, Sir Reynard, you must your self help to dig for this Treasure, for else I shall never find it. I have heard name Paris, London, Acon, and Cullen, but Cickenpit I never heard of: therefore I fear you dissimble. The Fox blusht at those words, yet with a bold countenance he said, As your Majesty so doubtful of my faith? nay, then I will approve my words by publick testimony: and with that he called forth Kayward the Hare from amongst the rest of the Beasts, and commanded him to come before the King, charging him upon his Faith and Allegiance which he bore to the King and Queen, to answer truly to such questions as he should ask him. The Hare answered, I will speak truth in all things, though I were sure to dye for the same. When the Fox said, Know you not where Creckenpit standeth? Yes, said the Hare, I have known it any time this dozen years; it standeth in a Wood called Husterloe, upon a vast and wide Wildernesse, where I have endured much torment both of hunger and cold: Besides, it was there where Father Simony the Fryer made false Copie, with which he supported himself and his fellows: Yet that was before I and King the Hound became companions. Well, said the Fox, you have spoken sufficiently: go to your place again: so away went the Hare. When said the Fox, my Sovereign Lord the King, what say you now to my relation: am I worthy of your belief or no? the King said, Yes Reynard, and I beseech thee excuse my jealousies, it was my ignorance which did thee evil: therefore forthwith make preparation that we may go to the pit where this Treasure lyeth. The Fox answered, Alas my Lord, do you imagine that I would not fain go with you, if it were so that I might go without your dishonour, which I cannot do: For you shall under-

stand

of Reynard the F O X.

stand (though it be my disgrace) that when Isegrim the Wolf, in the Devil's name, would needs grow religious and turn a Monk, that then the portion of meat which was for six Monks was too little for him alone. Whereupon he complained so pitifully unto me, that I commiserating his case, (being my kinsman) gave him counsel to run away, which he did. Whereupon I stand accursed and Excommunicated, under the Pope's sentence, and am determined to morrow as soon as the Sun ariseth, to take my way towards Rome to be absolved; and from Rome I intend to cross the Seas into the Holy land, and will never return again into my Native Country till I have done so much good, and satisfied for my sins, that I may with honour and reputation attend on your Highness Person. The King hearing this, said, Since you stand accursed in the Censures of the Church, I may not have you about me, and therefore I will at this time take Kayward the Hare, and some other with me to Creckenpit, and only command you, Reynard, as you respect my labour, to clear your self of his Holiness Curse. My Lord (said the Fox) it is the only reason of my going to Rome; neither will I rest night nor day, till I have gotten a full absolution. The course you take is good (said the King) go on, and prosper in your intent and purpose.

C H A P. XIII.

How Reynard the Fox was Honoured of all Beasts
by the King's Commandment.

As soon as this Conference was ended, the Royal King mounted upon his high Throne, made in manner of a Scaffold, made of fair square Stone, and then commanded a general silence amongst all his Subjects, and then every one should take his place according to his Birth, or Dignity in Office, only the Fox was placed between the King and the Queen. When said the King, Hear all you Noblemen, Knights, Gentlemen, and others of inferior quality, This Reynard, one of the Chief and Supreme Officers of my

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Household,

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Household, whose offences had brought him to the last reckoning of his life, as being in the hands of the Law and Justice,



hath this day, in requital of those Injuries, done that Noble and Worthie Service to the State, that both my Self and my Queen, stand bound to render him our best Grace and Favour. Therefore know, That for Divers things

of Reynard the FOX.

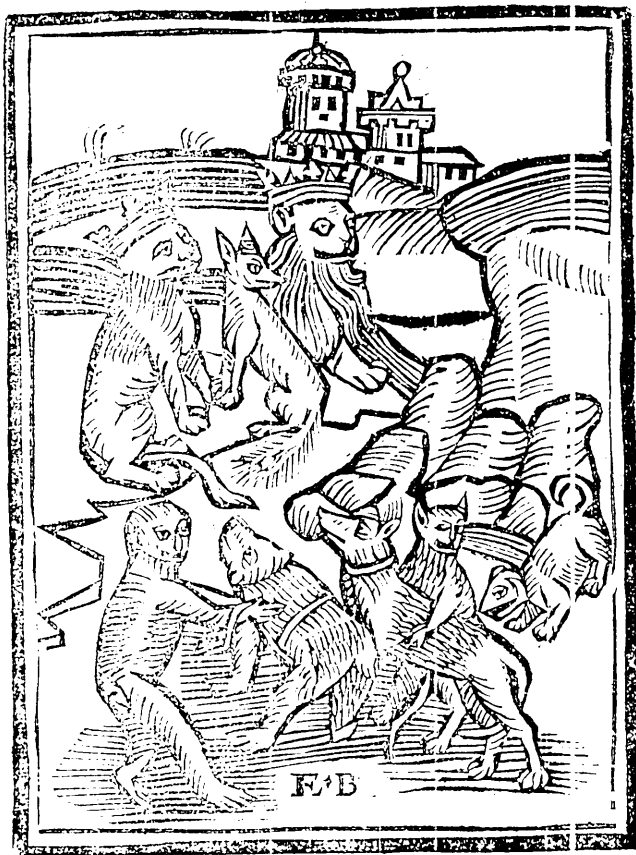
things best known unto our selves, we have freely given pardon to all his Offences, and restored back to him whatsoever to us was confiscate: therefore henceforth I Command all of you, upon the pain and hazard of your dearest Lives, That you fail not, from this day forward, to do all Reverence and Honour, not only to Reynard himself, but also to his Wife and Children, whensoever, or wheresoever, you shall meet them, whether by Right or by Way: For that any one hereafter be so audacious, as to trouble mine Ears with any more Complaints of him; for his Wickedness he hath cast behind him, and will no more be guilty of Wrong-doing: which, to effect the better, to Morrow, very early, he taketh his Journey towards Rome, where, from the Pope, he will purchase a free Pardon and Indulgence for all his Offences, and then the Pilgrimage to the Holyland. This Speech, when Tisellin the Raven heard, he flew to Bruin, Hegrim, and Tibert, and said, Wretched Creatures! how are your Fortunes changed? or how can you endure to hear these sayings? Why, Reynard is now a Courtier, a Chancellor, nay, the prime favourite: his Offences are forgiven, and you are all betrayed, and sold unto Bondage. Hegrim answered, It is impossible, Tisellin, nor can such a thing be suffered: Do not deceive your selves (said the Raven) for it is as true, as that now I speak it. When went the Wolf and the Bear to the King, but the Cat said, and was so sore affrighted with the News, that to purchase the Foxes Friendship again, he would not only have forgiven the Evils received, but willingly have run into a second hazard. But now Hegrim, with great majesty and pride, tracing over the fields, came before the King and Queen, and with the most bitter and cruel words, inveighed against the Fox in such a passionate and impudent manner, that the King being infinitely moved with displeasure, caused the Wolf and the Bear to be presently Arrested upon High-Treason: which suddenly was done with all violence and fury, and they were bound hand and foot so fast, that they could neither stir nor move from

The Moral.
By this Honour done to the Fox you may see, that when Policy and Wisdom get the upper hand of their Enemies, it never resteth till it maketh known to the World the greatness of their Conquest, both to express their Ambition, as also to extenuate their Crimes, and keep their Foes in awe with the goodly shew of new Grace and favour. By the Complaint of the Raven, is shewed the jealousy and Fear of the weaker sort, and how in their Troubles they fly to the Heads of Faction, and stir them with their own fantasies to prevent evils. By the Wolf and the Bear's Commitment, is shewed, that when Men

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sever into most
apparent and
grievous mis-
chiefs.

the place where they were couched. For when th: For
had thus intyalled and intangled them, he so laboured with
the Duxen, that he got leave to have so much of the Bear's
skin as would make him a large Serip for his Journey:



which granted, he wanted nothing but a strong pair of
Shooes to defend his feet from the stones in his travel:
Where-

of Reynard the FOX.

Whereupon he said to the Duxen, Madam, I am your
Pilgrim; and if it would please your Majesty but to take it
into your Consideration, you shall find that Sir Ilegrim hath
a pair of excellent long lasting ones, which would you vouch-
safe to bestow upon me, I would pray for your Majesty's
Soul in all my trabel about my charitable devotion. Also
mine Aunt, Dame Arsewind, hath other two Shooes, which
would your Majesty bestow upon me, I should be most infi-
nitely bound to you, nor should you do to her any wrong,
because she goes seldom abroad. The Duxen replied, Rey-
nard, I cannot perceiue but you should want such Shooes for
your Journey is full of labour and difficulty, both in respect
of the stony Mountains, and the grabelly Ways; and there-
fore you shall have (though it touch their Life never so near-
ly) from each of them a pair of Shooes, to accomplish and
finish your Journey.

C H A P. XIV.

How Ilegrim and his Wife Arsewind had their Shooes
pluckt off for Reynard to wear to Rome.

A fter the Fox had made this Petition, Ilegrim was ta-
ken, and his Shooes pulled off in most cruel and violent
manner, so that all the beins and sinews lay naked: nor durst
the pooz massacred Wolf either complain or resist. After he
had been thus tormented, then Dame Arsewind, his Wife, was
used on the same manner on her hinder feet, as her Husband
was on his fore-feet; which the Fox seeing, said to her in a
scornful manner, Dear Aunt, how much am I bound to you,
that takes all this pains for my sake? questionless you shall
be a sharer in my Pilgrimage, and take part in the Wardon I
shall bring from beyond the Seas by the help of your Shooes.
Then Arsewind (though Speech were troublesome to her)
said, Well, Sir Reynard, you have your will accomplisht;
yet Heaven (I hope) will requite the misdeed. At this she said,
but her Husband and the Bear lay mute, for their wounds
were grievous unto them: and surely had the Cat been there
also,

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The Moral.

In the spoiling the Bear of his Skin, and the Wolf of his Shoes, is shewed both the Malice of a revengeful Enemy, that never thinks his Foe weakened enough, till he be utterly ruined; as also the Indiscretion of an over-angry Nature, that cannot stay to give his Wrongs advantage, but utters his Spleen before he can either get relief or remedy. By the Ceremonies done to the Fox, and the Curiosity of the Ram, is shewed, that in cases of indifference (where Authority hath power to command, for any Man to stand upon nice and puritanical Terms with his Superiors, doth not only breed Reprehension, but Punishment.

also, he had not escap'd some extream punishment. The next Morning, very early, Reynard causing his Shoes to be well oil'd, put them on, and made them as fit to his Feet, as they were to the Wolf, and then went to the King and Queen, and said, My Lord, and Lady, your poor Subject boweth himself before your Majesties, humbly beseeching your Highness, to deliver me my Galle and my Staff, bless, according to the custom due unto Pilgrims.

This said, the King sent for Bellin the Ram, and commanded him to say solemn Mass before the Fox, and to deliver him his Staff, and his Galle: but the Ram refused, saying, My Lord, I dare not, for he hath confessed he is in the Pope's Curse: and the King said, What is that? have not our Doctors told us, That if a Man commit all the Sins in the World, yet if he repent himself, he shall have penance, and walk as the Priests shall instruct him, that all is clearly forgiven him? and hath not Reynard done all this? Then answered Bellin, Sir, I am loath to meddle hereto; yet if your Majesty will bear me harmless against the Bishop of Prendelor (my Ordinary) and against the Arch-deacon of Loof-wind, and Rapiamus his Official, I will effect your Commandment. At this the King grew angry, and said, I scorn to be beholden unto you: But when the Ram saw the King offended, he shook for fear, and ran presently to the Altar, and sung Mass, and used many Ceremonies over the Fox, who gave little respect unto them, more than the desire he had to enjoy the Honour. And when Bellin the Ram had finished his Orisons, he presently hung about Reynard's Neck his Galle, which was made of the Bear's Skin, and put into his right Foot a Palmer's Staff: and thus being furnished of all things, he looked sadly upon the King, as if he had been loath to depart: and fained to weep (though sorrow and he were never farther asunder) only his worst grief was, that all in that presence were not in the same case that the Bear and the Wolf were; yet he took his leave of them, and desired every one to pray for him, as he would pray for them: and then offering to depart, (for knowing his own knavery, he was very desirous to be

gone)

of Reynard the FOX.

gone) the King said, Sir Reynard, I am sorry we must part thus suddenly: Then said the Fox, There is no remedy, my Lord, nor ought I to be slow in to debate an action. Then the King took leave, and commanded all that were about him (but the Bear and the Wolf) to attend Reynard some part of his Journey. He that had seen how gallant and personable Reynard was, and how well his staff and his male became him, as also how fit his shoes were for his feet, it could not have chosen but have stirred in him very much laughter: Yet the Fox carried himself outwardly very demurely: however inwardly he smiled at the abuses he had cast among them; especially to see his enemies, now his attendants, and the King, whom he had most palpably wronged with false lies, to be attending to all his vain desires, did accompany him also as if they had been his Companions. But the Fox being now onward his way, he said to the King, I beseech your Majesty trouble your self no further, but have respect to your ease, and the danger that might happen to your Royal Person; for you have Arrested two capital Traytors, who if in your absence they should get at liberty, the danger were infinite which might ensue thereon. And this said, he stood upon his hinder feet, and intreated the Beasts that were in his company, and would be partakers of his Wardon, that they would pray for him: which done, he departed from the King with an exceeding sad and heavy countenance: When turning to Kayward the Hare, and Bellin the Ram, he said, with a smiling countenance, My best Friends, shall we part thus soon? I know your loves will not leave me yet: with you two I was never offended, and your Conversations are agreeable to my Nature, for you are Mild, Loving, and Courteous, Religious, and full of wise Counsel, even such as my self was when I was first a Recluse: if you have a few green leaves, or a little grass, you are as well content, as with all the bread and fish in the world, and you are temperate and modest: And thus with a world of such like flattering words, he inticed these two, that they were content to go along with him.

CHAP.

CHAP. XV.

How Kayward the Hare was slain by Reynard the Fox, and sent by the Ram to the King.

Thus marched these three together; and when Reynard was come to the gates of his own house, he said to Bellin, Cousin, I will intreat you to stay here without, a little, whilst I and Kayward go in: for I would have him a witness of some private passages betwixt me and my wife. Bellin was well content, and so the Fox and the Hare went into Malepardus, where they found Dame Ermelin lying on the ground, with her younglings about her, who had sorrowed exceedingly for the loss and danger of her Husband: but when she saw his return, her joy was ten times doubled. But beholding his male, his staff, and his shoes, she grew into a great admiration, and said, Dear Husband, how have you fared? to whom he delivered, from point to point, all that had passed with him at the King's Court, as well his danger as release, and that now he was to go a pilgrimage, having left Bruin and Megrim to pledge for him till his return: as for Kayward he said, the King had bestowed him upon them, to do with him what they pleased, affirming, that Kayward was the first that had complained of him, for which questionless he vowed to be sharply revenged. When Kayward heard these words, he was much appaled, and would fain have fled away, but he could not, for the Fox had got betwixt him and the Gate, who presently seized the Hare by the neck: at which the Hare cried unto Bellin for help, but could not be heard, for the Fox in a trice had torn out his throat: which done, he, his wife and young ones feasted therewith merrily, eating the flesh, and drinking the blood to the King's Health. But Ermelin growing suspicious, said, I fear, Reynard you mock me; as you love me tell me how you sped at the Court. When he told her how extremely he had flattered the King and the Queen, and abused them with a fained promise of Treasure, that was not, alonely, that he knew when it should come to be revealed,

healed, the King would seek all the means he could to destroy him. And therefore Wife, said he, there is no remedy but we must steal from hence, into some other Forest where we

The Moral. By the killing of the Hare it shewed, that whereas men out of the lightness and easiness of their belief, do give credit to the enticements of their Adversaries, new reconciled Friends, that evermore some inevitable mischief doth still follow such folly and improvidence. Also how easily a malicious man can find cause of quarrel with such as are too weak for them, or as eye-for-eyes, stand between them and the end of their purposes; or are able to reveal and hinder their projects. By the Rams carrying the Hares head to the Lyon, and taking upon him to indite the Letters, which he saw not, is discovered, that such vain glorious pick-



may live in better safety, and in a place more fruitful, where we shall have all the delicatest meats that can be wish't for, clear

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passes of o-
thers qualities,
do ever carry
their own
shames and
disreputations,
and when they
look for most
honour or re-
nown, they
reap nothing
but misery
frowne and dis-
grace.

clear Springs, fresh Rivers, cool Shades, and wholsome
Air; here I know is no abiding: and now I have gotten up
thunb out of the Kings mouth, I will no more con e within
the danger of his talons. Yet (said Ervelin) I have no fan-
cy to go from hence to a place where I am utterly unac-
quainted: here we possess all that we desire, and you are a
Lord over all that lives about you, and it is but an indif-
ferent hazard to change a certain good for a hoped content-
ment: besides we are here safe enough, and should be King
besiege us never so straightly, yet have we so many passages
and by-holes, that he can neither cut from us relief, or li-
berty. What reason have we then to flee beyond Seas?
but you have sworn it, that is my vexation. Nay Dame
(said the Fox) grieve not at that: the more forsworn, the
less forgotten: Besides I have heard some say, that a for-
get Dath is no Dath: nor do I make account that this Pilgrim-
mage will abail me a rush. And therefore I am resolved,
and will not start from hence, but follow thy counsel: If
the King do hunt after me, I will guard my self as well as
I am able, and against his Power apply my Policy: so that
being forced to open my Shack, let him not blame me if he
catch hurt by his own fury.

All this while stood Bellin the Ram at the Gate, and grew
exceeding angry both against the Fox and the Hare, that they
made him wait so long: and therefore called out aloud for
Reynard to come away: which when Reynard heard, he went
forth, and said softly to the Ram, Good Bilin be not of-
fered, Kayward is in earnest Conference with his dearest
Aunt, and increated me to say unto you, that if you would
be pleased to walk before, he would speedily overtake you,
for he is light of foot, and speedier than you: nor will his
Aunt part with him thus suddenly, for she and her Children
are much perplexed at my departure. I but (quoth Bellin)
methought I heard Kayward cry for help. How cry for
help? can you imagine he shall receive hurt in my House? far
be such a thought from you: but I will tell you the reason, as
soonas we were come into my house, and that Ervelin my
Wife understood of my Pilgrimage, presently she fell down
in a swoond, which when Kayward saw, he cried aloud,

2

of Reynard the FOX.

Bellin come and help my Aunt, she dies, she dies: Then said
the Ram, in sadness I mistook the cry, and thought the Hare
had been in danger. It was your too much care of him, said
the Fox: but before he should have any injury in my house, I
would leave to respect either Wife or Children. But let-
ting this discourse pass, You remember Bellin that yester-
day the King and his Council commanded me, that be-
fore I departed from the Land, I should send unto him
two Letters, which I have made ready, and will intreat
you my dearest Cousin, to bear them to his Majesty. The
Ram answered, I would willingly do you the service, if
there be nothing but honourable matter contained in your
Letters: but I am unprovided of any thing to carry them
in. The Fox said, that is provided for you already, for
you shall have my Gale, which you may conveniently
hang about your neck: I know they will be thankfully
received of his Majesty, for they contain matter of great
importance. Then Bellin promised to carry them: So the
Fox returned into the House, and took the Gale, and put
therein the Head of Kayward, and brought it to the Ram,
and gave him a great charge not to look therein, till it
was presented to the King, as he did expect the Kings
favour: And that he might farther indear himself with
his Majesty, he bade the Ram take upon him the Au-
diting of the Letters, which will be so pleasing to the
King, that questionless he will pour upon you many fa-
vours.

The Ram was exceeding glad of his advice, and
thanked the Fox, saying, That the favours he did him
should not die unrequited: and I know it will be
much to mine Honour, when the King shall think I am
able to Audite with so great Perfection: For I know
there be many in these days as ignorant as my self, that
are risen to high promotion only by taking upon them
the worth of other mens Labours. Yet I pray you,
Reynard, farther advise me, is it meet that I take Kay-
ward the Hare along with me? And by no means (said the
Fox) let him come after you, for I know his Aunt will not



yet part with him. Besides, I have other secret things to impart to him, which may not be revealed. At his said, Bellin took leave of the Fox, and went toward the Court, in which journey he made such speed, that he came thither before noon, where he found the King in his Palace, sitting among the Nobility.

The King wondered when he saw the Ram come in with the male which was made of the Bears skin, and said, Whence comest thou Bellin? and where is the Fox, that you have that about you? Bellin answered, My dear Lord, I attended the Noble Fox to his house, where after some repose, he desired me to bear certain Letters to your Majesty of infinite great importance, to which I easily consented. Whereupon he delivered me the Letters inclosed in this male, which Letters my self had formerly indited, and I doubt not but are such as will give your Highness both contentment and satisfaction. Presently he commanded the Letters to be delivered to Bocart his Secretary, who was an excellent Linguist, and understood all Languages, that he might read them publickly: So he and Tibert the Cat took the male from Bellins neck, and opening the same, instead of Letters they drew out the head of Kayward the Hare, at which being amazed, they said, Alas and alas! what Letters call you these? believe it, my dread Lord, here is nothing but the head of poor murdered Kayward. Which the King seeing he said, Alas! how unfortunate was I to believe the traitorous Fox? And with that being oppress'd with anger, grief, and shame, he held down his head for a good space, and so did the Queen also: But in the end shaking of his curled locks, he groaned out such a dreadful noise, that all the Beasts of the Forrest did tremble to hear. Then spake Sir Erapel the Libbard, who was the Kings nearest Kinsman, and said, Why is your Majesty thus vexed in heart? this sorrow might serve for the Queens Funeral. I do beseech you assuage your anguish: Are not you King and Master of this Countrey? and are not all things subject to your power? The King replied, Cousin, this is mischief beyond endurance, I am betrayed by a base William, and Traitor, and have been made to wrong and abuse my best Friends and Subjects, even those of my blood, and nearest counsel; I mean the stout Buin, and valiant Legrim, whose wrongs speak loud to my dishonour; yet in my self I found all unwillingness thereto only my Queens pity, working upon the easiness of my belief, hath made me guilty of that which will evermore grieve me. Why (said the Libbard) what of all this? you are above all your Injuries, and with one



one smile can salve the greatest wound that can be made in Honour; you have power to recompence; and what reputation is it, that reward will not saluider? As for the Bear that lost his skin, the Wolf and his Wife Dame Arwind, that lost their Woo's, you may in recompence (since Bellin hath confess himself a party in this foul murther) bestow him and his substance upon the parties grieved: As for Renard, we will go and besiege his Castle, and having arrested his person, hang him up by the Law of Arms without further trial.

CHAP. XVI.

How *Bellin* the Ram, and his Lineage, were given to the Bear and the Wolf.

THIS motion of the Libard the King contented: so that Sirapel forthwith went to the Prison, where the Bear and the Wolf were, and said, My Lords, I bring a free and general

general pardon from the King and his Lords, and a recognition of your injuries: which to recompence in some large



manner out of his Princely bounty, he is pleased to bestow upon you both *Bellin* the Ram, and his whole generation, with whatsover they possess, and is now confiscate to his Majesty,

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jesly, to hold from henceforth, to you and yours, till Dooms-
day, with full Commission to slay, kill, and devour them
wheresoever you find them, be it in Woods, fields or Moun-
tains. Also the King granteth unto you full power to hunt,
kill or wound Reynard the Fox wheresoever you find him, or
any of his Lineage or Generation: And of this great Privi-
ledge, you shall receive Letters Patents at your pleasure,
with only a reservation of your safety and homage to be due
to his Majesty, which I advise you to accept, for it will re-
round much to your Honours. Thus was the Peace made
between the King and these Nobles, by the Upbard; and
Bellin the Ram was forthwith slain by them; and all these
Privileges both the Wolf hold to this Hour, nor could ever
any reconciliation be made between them and the Rams Kin-
dred. When this Peace was thus finished, the King for joy
thereof proclaimed a Feast to be held for twelve days after,
which was done with all Solemnity.

To this Feast came all manner of Wild Beasts, for it was
universally known throughout the whole Kingdom; nor was
there wanting any Delight or Pleasure that could be imagi-
ned, as Musick, Dancing, Masking, and all Princely
Recreations. As for several Beasts, they were in that
abundance, that the Court seemed a Store house which
could not be emptied. Also to this Feast resorted abun-
dantly of Feathered Fowl, and all other Creatures that held
Peace with His Majesty, and no one missing but the Fo:
only.

Now after this Feast had thus continued in all Day the
space of eight days, about high noon came Lapril the Coney
before the King and Queen as they sat at Dinner, and with
a heavy and lamentable voice, said, My gracious and great
Lord have pity upon my misery, and attend my complaint,
which is of great violence, force and murder. which Rey-
nard the Fox would yesterday have committed against me,
as I passed by the Castle of Malepardus, where standing
without his Gates, attired like a Pilgrim, I sup-
posing to pass peaceably by him toward my Nest, he
cross my way, saying his Beads so devoutly, that I
saluted

of Reynard the FOX.

saluted him: but he returning no answer, stretcht forth his
right foot, and gave me such a blow on the neck, between the

The Moral.

By the giving
of Bellin unto
his enemies, is
shewed, that
when simple
men give
themselves to
pride and vain
glory, they are
overtaken by
their enemies;
& made slaves
to shame and
destruction. By
the complaint
of the Coney,
is shewed, that
when the
weak will be-
lieve the fair
shews of the
strong, and
cruel, and so
commit their
safety to their
enemies mer-
cies, they sel-
dom escape
with life, or if
they do by
some hidden
providence, yet
it is not with-
out ever some
maim, either
to their bodies
or reputatio-
n. The complaint
of the Rook
shews, that
when the evil
man sleppeth,
or seemeth to
have least
power or in-
tent of wick-
edness



head and shoulders, that I imagined my head had been strick-
en from my body: but yet so much memory was left me, that
I leapt from his claws, though most grievously hurt and
wounded

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most, that then his thoughts are most busied and laborious to destroy the innocent; and the mischief is more violent, than when he seeth most apparent, and p. blitheth himself an open enemy; wherefore the simple and innocent ought at such times to be most fearful, and to keep farthest out of his danger.

wounded. At this he grieved extremely, because I escaped, only of one of my ears be utterly deprived me; which I beseech your Majesty in your Royal nature to pity, and that this bloody Furtherer may not live thus to afflict your poor Subjects. Now whilst the Coney was thus speaking to the King, there came flying into the Court, Corbant the Hooke, who coming before the King, said, Great King, I beseech you vouchsafe to hear me, and pity the complaint I shall utter: So it is, that I went this morning with Shamoel my Wife to recreate our selves on the Heath, and there we found Reynard the Fox laid on the ground like a dead carcass, his eyes staring, his tongue lolling out of his mouth like a dead wound, so that we wondering at this strange plight, began to feel and touch his body, but found no life therein at all: Then went my Wife (poor careful soul) and laid her head to his mouth to see if he drew any breath: which she had no sooner done, but the foul murderer awaiting his time, snatched her head into his mouth, and bit it quite off. At that I screamed out, and cried, Who is me, what misfortunes are these? But presently the Furtherer starts up, and reached at me with such a bloody intent, that with much trembling and anguish, I was fain to flee up into a Tree, where I saw him devour up my Wife in such terrible manner, that the very thought is death to me in the repeating.

The Massacre finished, the Furtherer departed, and I went to the place and gathered the feathers of my lost Wife, which here I humbly present before your Majesty, beseeching you to do me justice; and in such manner to revenge mine injury, that the world may speak fame of your great Excellence; for thus to suffer your Laws, Protections, and safe Conduits to be violated and broken, will be such disreputation and scandal to your Crown and Dignity, that you very Neighbours and Colleagues will note and point at your remissness: besides the sufferance of the evil will make you guilty of the trespasses which arise from such sufferance: But to your great considerations I leave it, since I know your Majesties own goodness will make you careful of your Honour and Royalty.

C H A P.

of Reynard the FOX.

C H A P. XVII.

How the King was angry at these complaints, took counsel for revenge; and how Reynard was forewarned by Grimbold the Brock.

The Royal King was much moved with anger, when he heard these complaints both of the Coney and the Hooke, so that his eyes darting out fire amongst the beams of Majesty, his countenance was dreadful and cruel to look on, and the whole Court trembled to behold him. In the end, he said, By my Crown, and the truth I evermore reverence and owe unto the Queen my Wife, I will so revenge these outrages committed against my Crown and Dignity, that goodness shall adore me, and the wicked shall die with the remembrance: his falsehood and flattery shall no more get belief in me.

Is this his journey to Rome, and to the Holy-land? are these the fruits of his Pale, his Staff, and other Ornaments becoming a devout Pilgrim? Well, he shall find the reward of his Treasons: but it was not my belief, but the persuasion of my Queen; nor am I the first that hath been deceived by that soft gender, since many great spirits have fallen through their inticements. And this said, he commanded all that were about him, both Noble, Worthie, and every discreet spirit, to assist him with their Counsel, and to lay him down such sure ground for his revenge, that his Honour and Royalty might be a new revived, and every Offender made to know and feel the heavy price for their most unjust actions.

Isgrim the Wolf, and Bruin the Bear, hearing the Kings words, were wonderfully well afraid, and doubted not but now to gain their full revenge against Reynard; yet still they kept silence, and spake not a word. Insomuch that the King being much moved with their dumbness, and noting that none durst freely deliver their opinions: He began to bend his forehead: But the Queen after solemn reverence, said to the King, Monsieur, Pour Dieu croyez mei toutes choses

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chofes qu'on vous, & ne jurez point le grement. Sir, It is not the part of any excellent Wisdom, to blieve or protest in any thing, till the matter be made most apparent and pregnant to his knowledge: neither should forth his ears be engaged to any complaint, but once ever referred to intertain the defence of any accused: For many times the accuser exceedeth the accused in injury: And therefore Audius alteram Partem, so hear the other Party, is the act of perfect Justice:

of Reynard the FOX.

Justice: For my own part, howsoever I have erred yet I have strong ground for my persuasion; or whether Reynard be good or bad, yet it stands with your Excellency not to proceed against him, but by the true form of our Laws: for he hath no power to escape you, but must obey whatsoever your Sobriety can impose upon him. When the Queen had thus spoken, Firaple the Libard to second her intreaty, said, My Lord, the Queen hath spoken graciously, and I see not wherein your Majesty can stray from her judgment: Wherefore let him take the due Trial of your Laws, and being found guilty of the trespasses whereof he is accused, let him be summoned: and if he appear not before your Feast be ended to clear himself, or submit to your mercy, then may your Highness proceed against him, as it shall seem best to your pleasure.

The Mor. f.
The anger of the Lion at the Fox's trespasses, shews the disposition of a good Prince, which is ever moved and offended, when his good Subjects are injured; and the persuasion of the Queen & the Libard, shews the true remembrance which every Prince should

To this speech Igrim the Wolf replied, Sir Firaple, for use when he my own part. I think not any of this assembly will dissent from your counsel, so it may stand with the pleasure of my Lord the King: yet this I dare maintain, that howsoever Reynard shall clear himself of these and a thousand such like trespasses which shall be brought against him: yet I have that lodged in my bosom, which shall approve he hath forfeited his life: but at this time his absence shall make me silent, only touching the Treasure of which he hath informed his Majesty to lie at Crekenpit in Husterloe, there never came a falser information from the mouth of any creature, for it was a lie made out of malice to wrong me and the Bear, and get himself liberty to rob and spoil all that passed by his House, as now he doth: but notwithstanding I held it meet that all things be done as shall seem good to his Majesty, or you, Sir Firaple: For this believe, that if he had meant to have appeared, he had been here long since; for he had summons given him by the Kings Messenger.

administred Justice. The moderate, yet biting words of the Wolf, shews the cunning malice of a subtil Fox, who before such as are of his contrary faction, will conceal the violence of his malice, that to he may gain more quiet at tent, and then rising his calm words with bitter profits and dishonest intentions, which he can to perform the reputation

To this the King answered, I will have no other consequence summoning him, but command all that owe me Allegiance, or respect mine Honour, that forthwith they make themselves ready for the War: and at the end of six days appear before

fore

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off him he has seen me with their Botes, Gunns, Bumbards, Pikes and Ballards; some on Horse-back, some on foot; for I will besiege Malepardus instantly, and destroy Reynard and his generation from the earth for ever: this if any dislike, let him turn his back, that I may know him for mine Enemy. And they all cried with one voice, We are ready to attend your Majesty.

When Grimbard the Broke heard this determination, he grew exceeding sorry (though his sorrow was desperate) and stealing from the rest of the Company, he ran with all speed possible to Malepardus, neither sparing Bush nor Water, Vale or Hill: and as he went, he said to himself, Alas my dear Uncle Reynard! into what hazards art thou drawn, having but own sleep betwixt thee and thy death, or at the best, thine everlasting banishment! Well may I grieve for thee, since thou art the Top and Honour of my House, art Wise and Politick, and a friend to thy friends when they stand in need of thy counsel; for with thy sweet language thou canst enchant all creatures; but all is now bootless.

With such manner of lamentations as these, came Grimbard unto Malepardus, and found his Uncle Reynard standing at the Castle gates, who had newly gotten two young Pigeons as they came creeping out of their Nest, to try how they could learn to fly. But now beholding his Nephew Grimbard, he said, and sad, Welcome my last beloved Nephew, the only he I esteem above all my kindred: Surely you have run exceeding fast, for you sweat wonderfully. What news man? how runs the squares at the Court? said Grimbard, exceeding ill with you; for you have forfeited both your life, honour and estate. The King is up in arms against you with Horse-men and Foot-men, and Souldiers innumerable: Besides, Hecgrim and Bruin are now in more labour with his Majesty, than I am with you; therefore it is high-time you have great care of your self, for their envy hath toucht you to the quick, they have informed against you, that you are a Thief and a Murderer: and to second their informations, Laprel the Coney, and Corbant the Broke have made vainous complaints against you, so that from shameful death, I see no escape or freedom.

Thus

of Reynard the F O X.



Thus (said the Fox) my dear Nephew, if this be the worst, let no sorrow affright you: but let us be cheerful and pleasant together, for though the King and all the Court would swear my death, yet will I be exalted above them all;

The Pleaſant tHiſtory

all; Well may they prate and jangle: and tice themſelves with their Counſels. but without the help of my Wit and Policy, neither can the Court or Common Wealch have any long continuance. Come then my beſt Nephew, let us enter into my Caſtle, and Feaſt; I have a pair of fair Pigeons for you, which are meat of pure and light digeſtion; I love not any thing better, they are Young and tender, and may be almoſt ſwallowed whole, for their bones are little other than blood; yet come, I ſay, my Wiſe Ermelin wll receive you kindly, but by all means report not to her of any dangers, for ſhe is of a ſoft and melting Temper, and it might ſtrike her into ſuddain ſickneſs; for Women are apt to entertrine grief. When we have feaſted, I will then to morrow early in the morning go with you to the Court, and if I can but attain ſpeech with the King: I ſhall gail ſome deep enough; only this I deſire (dear Nephew) of your hands, that you will ſtand to me, as one Friend and Kinſman ought to do one by another. Doubt me not (ſaid Grimbard) for both my life and goods ſhall be at your ſervice. I thank you Nephew (ſaid the Fox) and you ſhall not find me ingrateful. Sir (ſaid the Broek) be bold of this, What you ſhall come and make your anſwer before the Lords freely, for none ſhall dare to Arreſt or hold you, for that favour the Queen and the Litard have purchaſt from the King. I am glad of that (ſaid the Fox) nor care I then a hair for their worſt malice. And this ſaid, they went to Malepardus, and found Ermelin ſitting amongſt her younglings, who preſently aroſe, and received the Broek with all reverence, and he on the other part ſaluted her and her Childzen with all courteſie. Preſently the two Pigeons were made ready, and they ſeppd together, each taking their part, though none had ſo much as they deſired: Then ſaid the Fox, Nephew, how like you my Childzen Rollet and Reynardine? I hope they will do honour to our Family, they are towardly, I aſſure you; for the one lately caght a Chicken, and the other hath killed a Wulver: they are all good Duckers, and can both receive the Lapwing and the Mallard: I tell you true, I dare already

adventure

of Reynard the FOX.

adventure them far, only I mean firſt to inſtruct them how to eſcape the Gins, and to prevent both the Huntſman and his Hounds; they are of the right hair, Nephew, and like me both in countenance and quality; they play grinning, intangle ſoothing, and kill ſmiling: This is the true nature of the Fox, and in this they are perfect, which is a great pride unto me.

C H A P. XVIII.

How the Fox repenting his Sins, doth make his Confeſſion, and is Abſolved by the Broek.

UPON E, ſaid the Broek, you may be proud that you have ſuch toward Childzen: and reioyce becauſe they are of my blood. I thank you Nephew, (ſaid the Fox) but I know your Journey hath made you weary, therefore you ſhall go to your reſt: to which the Broek conſented; ſo they laid them down upon ſtraw Litter, and all ſlept ſoundly; but the Fox, whoſe heart was heavy with ſorrow, lay ſtudying how he might beſt excuſe himſelf before the King. But as ſoon as the morning began to riſe from the top of the Mountains, he aroſe, and went with Grimbard towards the Court; yet before he went, he took leave of his Wiſe and Childzen; and ſaid, Think not mine abſence long (dear Wiſe and Childzen) for I muſt go to the Court with my Couſin Grimbard, and though my ſtay be more than ordinary, yet take no affright thereat, and what tidings ſoever you hear, yet conſider all things for the beſt; and be careful of your ſelves, and keep my Caſtle cloſe, and well guarded; as for my ſelf, doubt not but I will defeat all mine enemies. Alas Reynard (ſaid his Wiſe) what moves you to take this ſudden Journey? the laſt time you were at the Court, you know what dangers you eſcaped; and you hoped never to ſee it again. Will you now run a ſecond hazard? Dame (ſaid the Fox) the occurrents of the World are divers and uncertain; and we are ſubject to the ſtrokes of fortune: but reſt you content, there is neceſſity

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that

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that I go, and I hope my stay shall not be above five days at the uttermost; and so embracing his Wife and Children, he took leave and departed; and as they journeyed over the Heath, Reynard said to the Brock, Nephew, since I was last shaven, I have committed many sins, therefore I beseech you let me make before you my confession, that I may pass with less trouble through my worst dangers.



When

of Reynard the FOX.

When he proceeded, and said, It is true, Nephew, that I made the Bear receive a great wound for the male which I did cut off his skin; and I caused the Wolf and his Wife to



be stript of their hoo's: I appealed the King only with falsehood, I fained a conspiracy against his Majesties life by the Bear and the Wolf, when there was never any such determination:

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The Moral.

The Foxe, having himself to the Brock, shews the Art of all dissemblers, which ever make devotion their cloak. By the buying of the Sole of the Mare, is shewed, that when proud men make instruments or wiser than themselves and such as affect not their qualities, the service they do them is ever to bring them to mischief, &c. Also when ambition or covetousness blinds men, and makes them trust on in their own skill and knowledge, that then they are ever suddenly overtaken with one mischief or another, and made a mock and scorn to their foes, and such as led them blindfold into the evil.

mination: also I repoised of great Treasure to be hid in Husterloe, but it was as fabulous as the rest: I slew Rayward, and betrayed Bellin, I wounded the Coney, and killed Dame Sharpbeak, the Woods Wife. Lastly, I forgot at my last shift one great deceit which I committed, but I will reveal it and thus it was;

As I went talking with the Wolf between Houthlast, and Elverding, we beheld a goodly Bay Mare grazing with a black Sole by her side, which was exceeding fat and wanton: the Wolf at that instant was almost dead for hunger, in so much that he intreated me to go to the Mare, and know if she would sell her Sole: I went and demanded the question. The Mare said, she would willingly sell it for Honey: I then asked the price: and she said, the price was written in her hinder-foot, which if I pleased I might come and read it at my pleasure; but I that well understood her politick anger, said, It is truth that I cannot read, neither do I desire to buy your Sole: only I am a Messenger from the Wolf, who hath a great desire to have it. Then (said the Mare) let him come himself, and I will give him satisfaction: When went I to the Wolf, and told him what the Mare said, assuring him, that if he pleased he might have his belly full of the Sole, provided he could read, for the price was written in the Mares hinder-foot. Read (said the Wolf): what should aile me? I can, Cousin, read both Latin, French, English, and Dutch; I have studied in Oxford, and argued with many Doctors; I have heard many stately Plays, and sitten in the place of Judgement: I have taken degrees in both the Lawes; nor is there that writing which I cannot decipher: So desiring me to stay for him there, a way he went to the Mare, and craved that he might see and read the price of the Sole: to which the Mare consented, and lifting up her hinder-foot which was newly shod with strong iron, and seven sharp nail-heads, as the Wolf look'd thereon, she smote him so lust upon the fore-head, that she threw him over and over, and he lay in a dead wound whil'st a man might have ridder a mile, and better; which done, away trotted the Mare with her

Colt,

of Reynard the F O X.

Colt, and left the poor Wolf bloody and wounded, insomuch that he howled like a Dog: then went I to him, and said, Sir Hegrim, Dear Uncle, how do you? have you eaten too much of the Colt? indeed you are unkind, that will give me no part with you. I went on your message honestly? methinks you have out-slept your Dinner: good Uncle tell me what was written under the mares foot? was it in Prose or Rime? indeed I would fain know it: I think it was a Trick-song, for I heard you sing: nay you shew your Scholarship in all the Arts.

Alas Reynard, (alas said the Wolf) I pray you forbear to disdain me, for I am extremely wounded, and mine anguish is so great, that a heart of flint would pity me. The damned Mare on her long legg hath an iron foot, and I took the Nails to have been Letters, on which I looked: she hit me so full on the head, I think my skull is cloven. Dear Uncle (said the Fox) is this truth which you tell me? believe it, you make me wonder; why, I took you for one of the greatest Clarks in this Kingdom: Well, I perceive the old Proverb is now made good in you: The greatest Clarks are not the wisest men. Woe men sometimes may out-strip them in Judgement; and the reason is, you great Scholars, study so much, that you grow dull, in that you so much over-labour. And thus with these mocks and taunts, I brought the Wolf within a hairs breadth to destruction. And now fair Prophet, I have unladen my Conscience, and delibered as many of my sins as I can call to remembrance; wherefore I beseech you let me receive Absolution and Penance: and then come what chance shall at the Court, I am armed against all dangers. When Grimbold said, your trespasses are great and hainous; nevertheless, who is dead must abide dead. And therefore here I freely Absolve you, upon assurance of your hearty repentance: only the contempt you made in sending him Raywards head, and the abuse of so many falsehoods will lie heavy upon you. Why (said the Fox) be that will live in the world to see this; or hear that, and

under

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understand the third, must ever converse with affliction. No man can touch Worme, but he must lick his fingers. I often feel touches of repentance, but reason and our will are ever in continual combat; so that I oft stand still, as at my Wits end, and cry out against my sins, feeling a detestation of them; but presently the World and her Vanities appear to me again: and when I find so many stones and rubs in my way, and the examples of the crafty Prelates, and rich Priests to inchant me, that I am forthwith taken again; the World fills me with Cobetousnes, and the flesh with Wantonnes; so that losing my good resolutions, I am only for Hell and Wickednes. I hear their Singing, Whiping, Laughing, Whiping, and all kind of Mirth; and I see their words and actions so contrary, that nothing is more uncertain and various: From them I learn my lying, and from Lords, Courts my flattery: For certainly Lords, Ladies, Priests and Clerks, use most dissimulation. It is now an offence to tell great men truth: And he that cannot dissimble, cannot live. I have oft heard men speak truth, yet they have still greed'd it with falshood: for untruths many times happen into discourse unwillingly, and without knowledge; yet having a handsome garment, it ever goes for currant. Dear Nephew, it is now a fashion to lye, flatter, sooth, threaten, pray and curse, and to do any thing that may keep the weak in subjection; who do otherwise, is held foolish: but he that cannot whimble falshood in truths kerchief, hath neither Art nor Cunning: but he that can do it, and deliver error without stammering, he may do Wonders; he may wear Scarlet, Gray or Purple: he shall gain both by the Lawes Spiritual and Temporal, and write himself Conquerour in every designment. There be many that imagine they can do it neatly, but their cunning oft fails them: so that when they think to feed of the fat morsels, they slip quite besides their Trenchers. Others are blunt and foolish, and for want of method mure all their discourses; but he that can give to his lye a fit and an apt conclusion, can pronounce it without rattling, and make it as truth, fair and amiable: That is the

man,

of Reynard the FOX.

man, and worthy of admiration. But to speak the truth, is no cunning, it never makes the Devil laugh: to lye well and with a grace, to lift up wrong above right, to make Mountains and build Castles in the Air, to make them juggle and look thorow their fingers, and all for hope of gain only: This Nephew, is an Art beyond expression; yet evermore at the end cometh misery and affliction. I will not deny but sometimes men may jest or lye in small things, for he that will speak all truths, shall sometimes speak out of season. To play Placebo, may now and then be born with; for who so speaks always truth, shall find many rubs in his way: Men may err for need, and mend it by course, since no trespass but hath his mercy: nor any wisdom but at sometime bullerh. When (said the Brock) Uncle, you are so wise you cannot fail in any purpose; and I am grown enamoured of you; your reasons so far surpass my understanding, that there is no need of your shift; for your self may both play the Priest and the Confessor: you know the world on such sort, that it is impossible for any man to halt before you.

With these and such manner of discourses, they held on their journey towards the Court: Yet the Foxes heart (for all his fair shew) was sad and heavy; yet his countenance bewaid it not: but he past without amazement through all the piers of the Court, even till he came to the presence of the King, and the Brock marched close by his side, saying Uncle be not afraid, but be of good cheer, it is courage of whom fortune is ever enamoured. When (said the Fox) Nephew, you say true, and your counsel avails me: and so on he went, casting many disdainful countenances on those he lik'd not; or as who would say, here I am: what is that the proudest of you dare object against me? he beheld there many of his kin which he knew loved him not: as the Otter, the Beaver, and divers others, which I will name hereafter: and many he saw that loved him. As soon as he was come in the view of the King, he fell down humbly on his knee, and spake as followeth.

C H A P.

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C H A P. XIX.

How *Reynard* the Fox excused himself before the King,
and of the Kings answer.

That Divine power from whom nothing can be hid, save
my Lord the King, and my Lady the Queen, and give
them grace to know who hath right, and who hath wrong; for



here

of *Reynard* the FOX.

there are many false shewes in the world, and the counte-
nance bewrapeth not the heart: which I wish were of only
revealed, and that every creatures trespass stood written
in his forehead, albeit it cost me the uttermost of my sub-
stance, or that you (my Sovereign Lord) knew me as nearly
as my self, and how I dispose my self early and late, labour-
ing in your service; For which cause only malice makes all
her complaints against me, striving to thrust me out of your
grace and favour. Inasmuch, that out of my anguish I must
needs cry shame unto them which have so deadly belied me.
Nevertheless, I know that you my Lord, and So-
vereign Lady, are so excellent in your Judgments, that
you will not be carried away with falsehoods: and there-
fore I humbly beseech your Majesties to take into
your Wisdoms all things according to the right of your
Laws: for it is Justice I look for, and desire that he which
is guilty, may feel the weight of his punishment. For be-
lieve it, dear Lord, it shall be known before I depart from
your Court, who I am, that I cannot flatter, but will shew
my face with an unblemished forehead.

All they that were in the presence, stood amazed, and won-
dered when the Fox spake so stoutly. But the King with a
stately countenance, said, Reynard, I know you are expert
in fallacies; but words are now too weak to relieve you; I
believe this day will be the last of your glory and disgrace:
for me, I will not chide you much, because I intend you shall
live but a short time: the love you do bear to me, you have
shewed to the Coney and the Rook, and your requital shall
be a short life on earth. The ancient saying is, A Pot may
pass long to the water, but in the end comes broken home.
And your evils have so long succeeded, that they will now
pay you the hazard. At these words Reynard was stricken
into a great fear, and wished himself far away, yet he be-
thought himself that now he must bear thorrow, what for-
tune soever came: Whereupon he said (my Sovereign
Lord the King) it is but Justice that you hear me answer
my accusations; for were my faults more heinous than
Coney can make them, yet Equity gives the accused leave

here

here

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ever to answer. I have with my counsels done you service in former time, and may no less still: I have never started from your Majesty, but walked by your side, when others have gone from your presence: if then my enemies with their slanders shall prevail against me, blame me not to complain. Time hath been, it was otherwise, and time may bring it to the old course; for the actions of good servants ought not to be forgotten. Alas here divers of my kindred and friends, which now make no value of me, whom I can prove go about to deprive you of the best servant you possess. Can your Majesty imagine, if I had been guilty in the least imagined crime, that I would thus voluntarily have made my appearance, even in the throng of mine enemies? No it had been too much indiscretion; nor would the liberty I had, been so easily subjected. But Heaven be thanked, I know mine innocence, and dare affront my worst enemy. Yet when my kinsman Grimbold first brought me the tidings, I must confess I was half distracted with anger; and had I not been in the censure of the Church, I had appeared ere they had left complaining; but that detained me. And I wandered with sorrow on the heath, till I met with my Uncle Martin the Ape, who far exceeded any Priest in Pastoral business, for he hath been Attorney to the Bishop of Carabrick any time this nine years: and seeing me in this great agony of heart, he said, Dear Cousin, why are you thus heavy in spirit? and why is your countenance dejected? grief is easy to carry, when the burden is divided amongst friends: For the nature of a true friend, is to behold and relieve that which anguish will not suffer the oppressed to see or suffer. When I answered him, you say true, Dear Uncle, and the like is my fortune; for sorrow is without cause laid upon me; and of that I am not guilty, I am accused by those I ranked with my best friends; as namely, the Coney who came yesterday to my house as I was saying Mattins, saying he was travelling towards the Court, but was at that time both hungry and weary, and therefore requested of me some meat: I willingly consented, took him in, and gave him a couple of Anchovy's, and sweet Butter: For it was on Wednesday, on which day I never eat flesh. Besides it was then

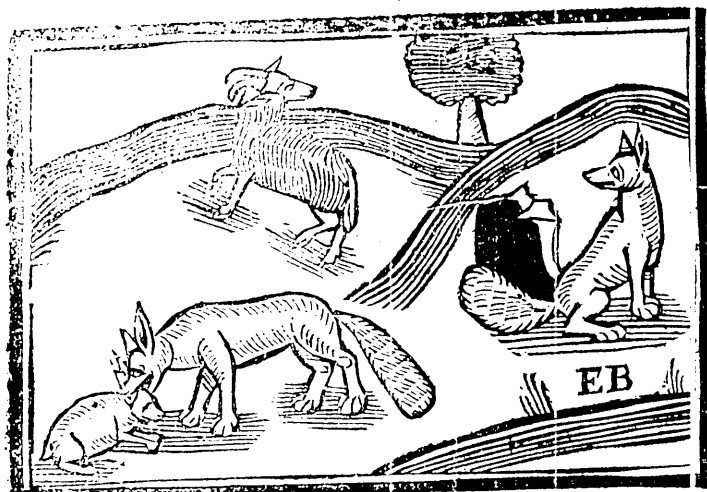
of Reynard the FOX.

then a Fast, by reason the Feast of Whitsontide was near. At which we must have cleansed and prepared hearts, Et vos estote Parati. Now when he had almost well refreshed himself, my youngest Son Rossel came in, and offered to take away what he had left (for you know the Nature of Children is

The Moral
The boldness of the Foxes appearance & speech, shews their evidence of a desperate offender, that having nothing but his own boldness to bolster out his cause, still cries for Justice; and cares not so much to excuse himself, as to accuse others, &c. by digressions and extravagant speech to bring all those into disgrace which are able to testify any thing against him. By the tale of the Apes going for him to Rome, and his threatening the King, is shewed the ignorance and foolish blindness of the old times; which would thrust Kings under the Popes curse, and make them subject to his Commands, though they were never his Son) then with a



ever eating and craving.) But presently the Coney smote Rossel on the mouth, that his teeth bled, and the poor fool fell down in a swoon, which when as Reynardine (my eldest



Diabolical. By his excusing himself of the crimes against the Coney and the Rook, is shewed, that whosoever is resolved to do an ill act, will never make conscience to tell a loud lye, nor is he ever unprovided thereof, because they are the garment which he ever cloaths his knavery with. By the Apes friends in Rome, as Simon or Si-

Son) beheld, he forthwith leapt to the Coney, and caught him by the head, and questionless had slain him, had I not come to the rescue. Which done, I went and gave my Son correction for his fault. But presently Laprel the Coney posits to my Lord the King, and informs, that I (my self) sought means to murder him. Thus I am accused without cause, and brought in danger, that in truth have best cause to accuse others. But not long after, came Corbant the Rook flying to my house with a sad noise, and I demanding what he ailed? He answered, Alas, my Wife is dead. I craved the cause, he said, A dead Hare lying on the heath full of Worms and Vermin, of which he had eaten so much, that the Worms had gnawed her throat insunder; and without speaking to me any more words, away he flew, leaving me much amazed, and now reports that I slew his Wife, which how could I possible by any means do, considering he lieth in the air, and I walk a foot on the ground? Thus

Dear

dear Uncle you may see how I am slandered, but it may be it is for my old sins, and therefore I bear it with more patience. Then said the Ape to me, Nephew, you shall go to the Court and disprove their falsehoods. Alas, Uncle (quoth I) it cannot be, for the Archdeacon hath put me in the Popes curse, because I gave counsel to the Wolf to forsake his holy Orders, when he complained to me of his unability to endure that first life, and much fasting; of which Act I now much repent me, since he repayed my love with nothing but hatred and malice, and with all the slanders he can invent, stirring his spawles daily against me. These things (dear Uncle) bring me to my Wits end; for of necessity I must go to Rome for Absolution; and in mine absence, what injury may happen to my Wife and Children through the malice of these bloody wretches, any one may guess: Whereas on the other part, were I but free of the Popes curse, then I could go to the Court, and plead my own cause, and turn their malice into their own bosoms.

Then said the Ape, Cousin, cast off your sorrow, for I know the way of Rome well, and am experienced in these businesses; for I am called the Bishops Clerk, therefore I will go thither, and enter a plea against the Archdeacon, and in spite of him will bring you from the Pope a well sealed Absolution.

But man, I have many great friends there, as my Uncle Simon, and others, Pen-Sto t, Wait-Scath, and the like, all which will stand unto me: besides, I will not go unfurnished of money, for I know Vratours are best heard with gifts, and the Law hath no feet to walk on but money: A true friend is tried in necessity, and you shall find me without dissembling; therefore cast off your grief, and go to the Court as soon as you can, for I will presently to Rome, and in the mean time here I quit you of all your sins and offences, and only put them upon my self: when you come to the Court, you shall find there Dame Raken my Wife, her two Sisters and my three Children, with divers others of our family, I pray you salute them from me, and shew them mine occasions: my Wife is exceeding Wife, and she is content

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with one that she shall find that her distressed friends shall not shrink holdeth too strong a party: And also how by such advantage the slender takes heart, & thereon grounds the strength of his greater innocence. By till you have Right and Justice restored you.

This assure your self, I can easily perform, for his Holyness is very old, and little regarded; only now Cardinal Pare-Gold beareth all the sway in the Country, as being young and rich in many friends: Besides he hath a Concubine, of whom he is so far enamoured, that he denies nothing she demandeth. His Lady is my Niece, and will do whatsoever I request her: therefore Cousin, go boldly to the King, and charge him to do you Justice, which I then studying know he will, since he understands, the Laws are made for the use of all men.

This (my Sovereign Lord the King) when I heard him speak, I smiled, and with great joy came hither to relate unto you the truth: Therefore if you, or any Creature within this Court, can charge me with any trespass whatsoever, and prove it by testimony, as the Law requireth, or else otherwise he will appose himself against me, person to person; grant me but a day and equal lists, and in combat I will maintain my innocency against him, provided he be equal to me in birth and degree: this Law hath ever hitherto stood constant, and I hope neither in me, for me, or by me, it shall now be broken.

When all the assembly of Beasts heard this, they were dumb and amazed to behold his stoutness. As for the Coney and the Hock, they were so scared, they durst not speak, but privately stole away out of the Court, and being far on the plain, they said, This devilish murderer hath such Art in his falsehood, that no truth can look with better counte-

of Reynard the FOX.



countenance, which only our selves know, but have no other witness; therefore it is better we depart, than try combat with him, which is so much too strong for us, and so away they went.

Isengrim the Wolf, and Bruin the Bear, were very sad when they saw these two forsake the Court: whereupon the King said, If any will approach the Fox, let him come forth, and he shall be heard: Yesterday we were laden with complaints, where are they to day? Where is the Fox ready to answer.

When said the Fox, My Sovereign Lord, absence makes impudent accusers bold, when presence daunts them, as your Highness may see both by the Coney and the Hock: What it is to trust the malice of these Cowards! and how soon they may confound good men! but for me, it matters not: nevertheless had they (at your Majesty's commandment) but ask'd me forgiveness, I had quickly cast all their offences behind me, for I will never shake hands with cha-

rity;

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riety; nor neber hate or complain of mine enemies: my revenge I leave to heaven, and Justice to your Justices. Then said the King, Reynard you speak well, if the inward heart be like the outward shew; yet I fear your grief is not so much as you express it: It far surmounts it, said the Fox: No, quoth the King: for I must charge you with one foul Treason, Which is, when I had pardoned all your great transgressions, and you had promised me to go a Pilgrimage to the Holy Land: when I had furnished you with male, with staff, and all things fitting that holy Order, then in the greatest contempt you sent me back in the male by Bellin the Ram, the Head of Kayward the Hare, a thing so notoriously to my disgrace and dishonour, that no Treason can be fouler. This you have no colour to deny, for Bellin (our Chaplain) at his death revealed the whole process; and the same reward which he then gained, the same you shall receive, or else right shall fail me.

At this sentence Reynard grew so sore affraid, that he knew not what to say, but looked with a pitiful countenance upon all his kindred which stood round about him; his colour went and came, and his heart fainted, but none lent him either hand or foot to help him: When the King said, Thou dissembling and false Traitor, why art thou now so dumb? But the Fox being full of anguish, fetcht a sigh as if his heart would have broke; so that every beast pitied him, save only the Bear and the Wolf, which rejoiced to see his sorrow.

CHAP. XX.

How Dame *Rukenaw* answered for the FOX to the King, and of the Parable she told him.

DAME *Rukenaw* the She-Ape (being Aunt unto Reynard and a great favourite of the Queens) was much grieved when she saw this distraction, and it was well for the Fox that she was in the presence: for she was exceeding wise, and durst boldly speak; and therefore rising up (after reverence done) she said, My Lord the King, you ought not to be posted with

of Reynard the FOX.



with anger, when you sit in Judgment, for it becometh not Nobility to be void of reason: it is discretion which should only accompany you in that season: for mine own part, I think I know the Laws as well as some which wear furred Gowns, for I read many, and put some in use. It is well known, I had ever in the Popes Palace a bed of straw, when other Beasts lay on the bare ground, and I was ever suffered to speak freely without interruption; because

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The Moral. By the *Spee* answer-
ing the *Fox* is shew'd how
a weak wo-
man is to be
flattered into
any belief in
which they
may either ex-
press their pi-
ty, or gain
glory. Albeit
shews, the ve-
rifying of the
old Proverb,
*That a friend
in Court, is e-
ver worth a
pound in a
man's Purse.*
By the vio-
lence of her
defence, is
shew'd the
true nature of
a woman, that
even more runs
into extremes;
and so she
may do the
good or evil
she intends,
will not keep
any thing con-
cealed which
may any way
make for her
purpose, nor
yet any thing
unargued,
which may
disgrace those
that are of the
contrary opi-
on, as may ap-
pear by the tale

cause I talk not beyond my experience. It is Seneca's opinion, that Princes are bound to do Justice to all men; nor may the Law waver or halt with any partiality. I do not think but if every man which standeth here, should call to an account all the actions of his life, he could not chuse but pity much the estate of my poor kinsman Reynard; and therefore I wishevery one to know himself, for none so sure but they may fall; and for him that ne- ver erred, he is so good he needeth no amendment. To do amiss and mend it by counsel, is humane and man- ly: but to trespass and still gallop forward in iniquity, is devilish and insufferable: the Holy Book saith; Be merciful and judge not, lest you be judged; and in another place, when the Pharisees brought a Woman taken in adultery, and would have stoned her to death, asked our Lord what he said thereto? he answered, Which of you all is without sin, let him cast the first stone: But they all departed and left her; In mine opinion, it is so here to day; for here be many that find straws in others eyes, but see not the beams in their own: he that falleth oft, and in the end ariseth and cometh to mercy, cannot be said to be damned: good- ness never forsaketh her own servants. This counsel would some take to their hearts, the day would not appear so dark as it doth to my Cousin Reynard. It is well known that his Grandfather and Father ever bare greater re- putation in this Court, then either Bruin or Asgrim, or their whole generation. Alas, when have their Counsels, or wisdoms been worthy to have held comparison with those of my Cousin Reynard? why, the passages of the Aspid are to them Prophecies, which they understand not; and the Court is turned topsie-turvy by his absence: the evil are now advanced, and the good suppressed; but how this can long endure, I see not; since the end of their labour, is but the ruin of your Majesty.

To this speech the King made this answer; Dame, had the For done that offence to you, as he hath done to others, your excuse would couch in another nature: you cannot blame me to hate him, since it is only he which breaketh my Laws and

Code

of Reynard the FOX.

Covenants: you have heard him accused of Theft, Murder of the Man and Treason, how can you then defend him? if you will needs make him your Saint, then set him upon the Altar, and do him Worship; but believe it, there is no one good thing in him: and howeever you imagine, yet search him, and you shall find him rotten and deformed; there is neither kinsman nor friend (but your self) that will assist him, and therefore your violence draws my greater wonder. What companion hath he that ever thrived by his Society? or whom hath he smil'd on, that his tail hath not after dash't out the eye of?

To this the the-Ape replied, My Lord, I love him, and have ever born him a singular reverence; and I can well re- count one noble and good action he did in your presence, for which you then thanked him, though now forgotten: yet the heaviest thing should ever weigh the most; and men should keep a measure in their affections, and not hate, nor love with violence; since constancy is the greatest ornament of a Princely nature. We should not praise the day till the evening come; nor is good counsel availa- ble, but to those which mean to pursue it.

I remember about some two years since, there came to this Court a man and a Serpent to have Judgment in a doubtful controverisie. For the Serpent attempting to go through a hedge, was taken by the neck with a snare, so that there was no way to escape with life: a certain man pass- ing by, the Serpent called and cried unto him, and de- sired his help, or he should perish presently. The man tak- ing pity of him said, If thou wilt faithfully promise me neither to do me hurt with thy tooth or tail, or other weapon about thee, I will release thee. The Serpent presently swore he would not, neither at that time, nor any time hereafter: so the man unloosed him, and set him free, and they went forth and travelled together a long season.

At last the Serpent grew exceeding hungry, and rush- ing upon the man, offered to kill him: but the man started aside, and said, what meanest thou to do? hast thou forgotten thine



rhine Dath? the Serpent replied, No, but I may justly kill thee, since I am compelled thereto by hunger which cancelleth all obligations. When the man said, If it be so, yet give me leave to live till we may meet with the next passenger, which may judge the controvertise.

The Serpent agreed thereto; so they travelled till they met with Tisellen the Raven, and Shinopere his son: to whom relating the difference, the Raven adjudged that the Ser-

pent

pent should eat the man, hoping that he and his son should get a share also. But the man said, How shall he that is a robber, and lives by blood, judge the cause? It must not be one, but divers, and such as know both Law and Equity, that must judge this contention: the Raven is neither just, nor indifferent.

Then they travelled till they met the Bear and the Wolf, unto whom also they told the matter, and they adjudged against the man likewise. When the Serpent began to cast his Menom at the man; but the man leaped away, and said, You do me wrong thus to attempt to kill me: and the Serpent said, Hath not Judgment gone twice on my side? Yes, said the man, by such as are Murtherers themselves, and such as never kept promise; but I appeal to the Court, let me be tryed by your King, and what Judgment he giveth, I will willingly abide. To this all consented: So they came to the Court before your Majesty, and the Wolfs two Children came with their Father, the one was called Empty-Belly, the other Navel-full, because they sought to devour the man. So the full process of the matter was declared to your Majesty: but the mans kindness and covenant, the Serpents danger and Faith-breach, occasioned through the extremity of hunger. Remember how much your Highness was perplexed with their difference, and all your Councill also: For the mans sorrow, the Serpents hunger: the mans goodness, and the Serpents ingratitude, equally raised much pity in your bosome. But in the end, such doubts rose, that not any in your Court was able to judge it. At the last, when no help could be found, then you command my Winsman Reynard to decide the business: then was he Oracle of the Court, nor was any thing received, but what he propounded. But he told your Majesty that it was impossible to give true Judgment according to their relations; but if he might see the Serpent in what manner he was fettered, and the greatness of his danger, then he knew well how to give Judgment therein. When you commended him, and called him by the title of Lord Reynard, approving that to be done which he had spoken.

Then

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Then went the Man and the Serpent to the place where the Serpent was snar'd, and Reynard commanded the Serpent to be fastned as befoze in the snickle, which being done, then said your Majestie, Reynard, what Iudgment will you now give? and he replied, They are now, my Lord, in the



same estate they were befoze at their first encounter: they have neither won nor lost: Wherefoze this is my censure, if it be your Majesties pleasure, if the man will now loose and unbind the Serpent, upon the same promise and Oath made formerly unto him, he may at his pleasure: But if he think that hunger or other inconvenience will make him break his Faith, then may the Man freely go whether he will, and leave the Serpent bound and intyralled as he first found him: for it is fit that ingratitude be so repaid. This Iudgment your Majestie then applauded for the most excellent, and held the Wisdom of the Fox unimitable, terming him

of Reynard the FOX.

him the preserver of your Honour. When did ever the Bear, or Wolf the like? they can howl, or scold, steal, rob, and eat fat morsels, make their guts crack with others ruins; and condemn him to death which takes a Chicken; but themselves which kill Hine, Oxen, and Horses, they go safe, and be accounted as wise as Solomon, Avicen, or Aristotle, and their Deeds and Statutes must be read for Monuments. But if they come where Virtue is to be exercised, they are the first which retreat, and let the simple go foremost whilst they follow in the Rear with shame and cowardise. These (my Lord, and the like) are the fools of these corrupt times, yet destroy Towns, Castles, Land and People: nor care they whose house burneth, so they may warm them by the fire: for it is their profit only at which their aim bendeth. But Reynard the Fox, and all his family, have ever made the Honour of the King their renown and advancement, and applied their counsel to do him service, not pride and boasting: This hath been and is his exercise, though it now be thankless. But time I hope will produce whose merit is greatest: Your Majestie says, his kindred is fallen from him, and start at his fortune: would any but your Highness have affirmed it, you should then have seen there could not be a thing of greater falsehood: But your Grace may say your pleasure, nor will I in any word oppose you: for to him that so durst do, would both he and we bend our forces. It is known we dare fight, nor are we descended of any base generation: Your Highness may call to mind the worth of our Pedegree, and how dearly from time to time they have respected him, willing even to lay down their lives and goods for the safety of their noble Kinsman Reynard. For mine own part, I am one my self; and albeit I am the Wife of another, yet for him I would not sick to spend my dearest blood: Besides, I have three full grown Children, which are known, valiant and strong in Arms, yet for his sake I would adventure them all to the uttermost peril, albeit I love them with that dear affection that no Mother doth exceed me: my first born is called Birelas, which is most

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most active and nimble; my second Fulcrump; the third is a daughter called Hartanet, a girl that can look a mans head, and pick out Lice moze nimbly than all the Combs in Chastendome: and these three are loving and dear to one another: and with that she called them forth unto her, and said, Come my dear Children, and stand with your Kinsman the



Noble Reynard; and with you, come all the rest of our ancient family, and be all Petitioners to the King, that he will do to Reynard the equity of his Lawes and Kingdom. When presently came forth a world of other Beasts, as the Squirrel, and the Ferret: for these love Pullen as well as Reynard doth: When came the Otter and Pentecote his Wife, which I had almost forgotten, because in former time they had taken part with the Bear against the Fox, but now they dare not, but obey Dame Rukonaw, for they stood in awe of her wisdom and greatness: and with these came above twenty other

of Reynard the FOX.

other Beasts for her sake, and stood by Reynard. Then came also Dame Atrot and her two sisters, the Weasel, and Harmel the Ase, the Brock, the Water-Cat, and many others, to the number of almost an hundred, and stood by Reynard, with such affection, as if his trouble did equally concern them. Then said the He-Ape, My Lord the King, now you may see my Kinsman hath friends that dare avow him; and we are your true and loyal Subjects, which will never fail to do you faithful service. Therefore let us with one voice beg of your Majesty, that Reynard may have Justice; and if he be not able to disprove his adversary, and clear the crimes imputed against him, let the Law pass, for we will not murmur to see his Destruction.

Then said the Queen to Rukonaw, Thus much I told unto his Majesty yesterday, but his anger was so great, he would not give ear to me. Also the Libard said, Sir, you must judge according to witness: for to be governed by will is tyrannous and ignoble. Then answered the King, It is true you inform me; but the disgrace done to my particular self in Kaywards death, and other informations, robb'd me of patience, that I had no leisure to look back either to Law, or Reason: Therefore now let the Fox speak boldly, and if he can justly acquit himself of the crimes laid against him, I shall gladly restore him his liberty, and the rather for you his dear friends sake, whom I have ever found faithful and loyal.

How infinitely glad was the Fox when he heard these words, and said in himself, Thanks my noble Aunt a thousand times, thou hast put new Blossoms on my dy'd roses, and set me in a fair path to liberty. I have one good foot to dance on; and I doubt not but to use my Art of dissimulation so bravely, that this day shall be remembered for my renown and victory.



C H A P. XXI.

How *Reynard* excused himself of *Kaywards* Death, and all other imputations; got the Kings favour and made Relation of certain Jewels.

Then spake *Reynard* the Fox to the King, and said, Alas my Sovereign Lord, what is that you said? As good *Kayward* the Ware dead? And where is then *Bellin* the Wam? or what did he bring to your Majesty at his return; for it is certain, I delivered him three rich and ineffimable Jewels, I would not for the wealth of India they should be detained from you: the chief of them I directed to you my Lord the King, the other two to my Sovereign Lady the Queen. But (said the King) I received nothing but the Head of poor murdered *Kayward*, for which I executed the Wam, having confest the deed to be done by his advice and counsel. As this truth (said the Fox)? then too is me that ere I was born; for there are lost the goodliest Jewels that ever were

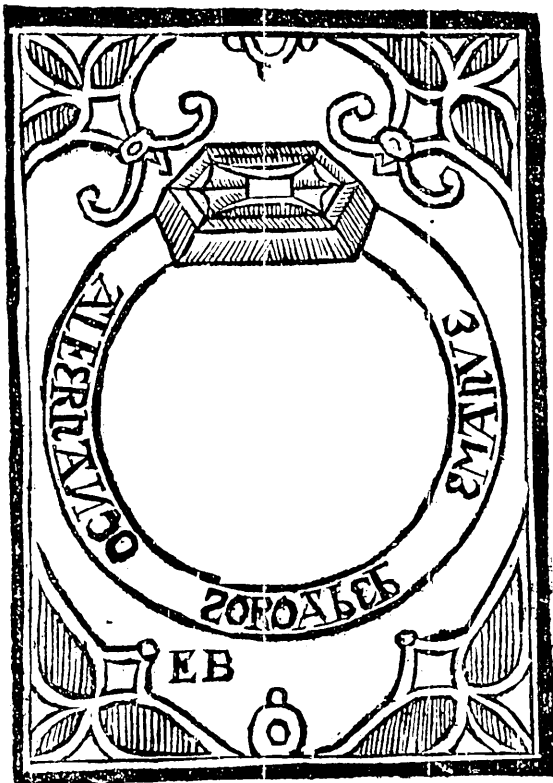
in

in the possession of any Prince living: would I had died when you were thus defrauded. For I know it will be the death of my Wife, nor will she ever henceforth esteem me. Then said the She-Ape, Dear Nephew, why should you sorrow thus for transitory Wealth? let them go, only discourse what manner of Jewels they were, it may be we shall find them again, if not, the Magician *M. Alkarin* shall labour his Books, and search all the corners of the earth. Besides, whosoever detains them, shall be curst in all Parishes, till he restore them to the Kings Majesty. And *Auat* (said the Fox) do not persuade your self so; for whosoever hath them, will not restore them to gain an Empire, they are so goodly and precious: yet your words do somewhat appease me. But whom shall we trust in this corrupt age, when even Sanctity it self walks maskt and mistaken? And then fetching a deep sigh, with which he gilded his dissimulation, he proceeded on, and said, Hearken all you of my Stock and Lineage, for I will here discover what these rich Jewels were, of which both I and the King are defrauded. The first of them (and which indeed I intended to his Majesty) was a Ring of fine and pure Gold, and within this Ring next the finger, were engraven Letters enamelled with Azure and Sabes, containing three Hebrew names; for my own part I could neither read nor spell them: But *M. Abron* of Trere, the excellent Linguist, who knoweth the nature of all manner of Herbs, Beasts, and Minerals, to this famous Jew I shewed the Ring once, and he assured me, that they were those three Names which *Seth* brought out of Paradise, when he brought to his Father *Adam* the Oyl of Mercy. And whosoever shall wear these three Names about him, shall never be hurt by Thunder and Lightning, neither shall any Witchcraft have power over him: He shall not be tempted to do any sin, neither shall heat or cold ever annoy him. Upon the top of the Ring was encaust a most precious Stone of three several colours; The first like red Chrysal, and glittering like fire, and that with such brightness, that if one had occasion to journey by Night,

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The Moral.

By the relation which the Fox made of the Jewels and their several virtues and riches, is shew'd the policy of the wicked, which are ever prepared of those baits which they know will soonest catch the minds of them they are to entangle: as wealth, health, honour, and virtue, all which are to be lodg'd in those Jewels. As for the stories contained in them, the Fox doth moralize them himself, shewing in them severally, the imputations he would have the Lion know to be in his enemies, and such examples are



examples are
evermore bit
ter, and work
more in the
mind or the
heart, than any
violent speech
or invective

the light thereof was so great as that at Noon-day. Tho' out
their colour was white and clear, as if it had been but washed;
and the virtue of it was to cure any blemish or soresness in the
eyes, or any part of the body: Also (by stroaking the place
grieved therewithal) it presently cured all manner of swell-
ings, head-aches, or any sickness whatsoever; whether it
were

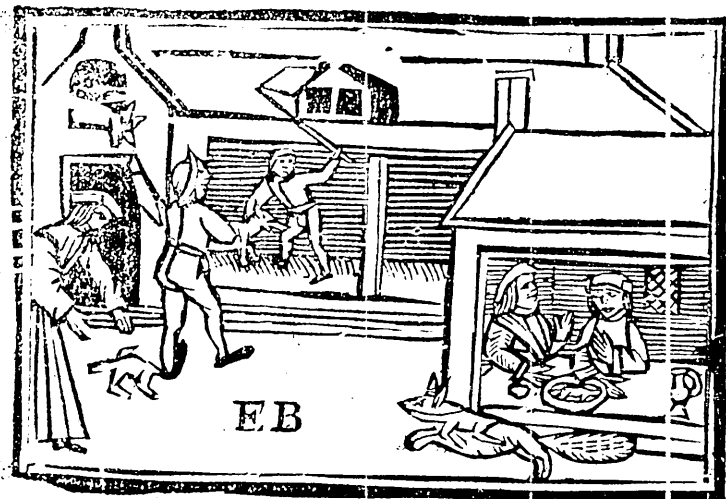
of *Regard* the F O X.

were venom, weakness of Stomach; Collick, Stone, Strangulion, Fistula, or Canker, either outwardly applied as aforesaid, or inwardly, by steeping the Stone in water, and then drinking the same. The last colour was green like grass, mixt with a few small spots of purple: and the learned affirmed for truth, that whosoever wears this stone about him, could never be banquish't by his enemies; and that no creature, were he never so strong and hardy, but would yield unto him, and he should be victor day and night in all places. Again, as far as one bore it fasting, into what company soever he chanced (were they his worst enemies) yet should he be of them infinitely beloved, nor should any angry or ill turn be remembered: Also if one should be naked in a vast wide field, against an hundred armed enemies, yet should not his heart fail him, but he should come off with Honour and Victory: only he must be Noble, and of no churlish disposition; for the King gave no virtue to any which was not a true Gentleman. Now all these virtues considered, I thought myself unworthy to keep it: and therefore I sent it to you my Lord the King, knowing you to be the most excellent of all creatures living; and one on whom all our lives depend, and therefore fittest to be guarded with so rich a Jewel.

This King I found in my Fathers Treasure : and in the same place also I found a Comb, and a Glass Mirror, which my Wife desired of me : they were Jewels of great wonder and admiration : these were sent to my Lady the Queen ; because of her grace and mercy extended towards me : to speak of the Comb , it can never be too much praised, for it was made of the bone of a Noble Beast named Panthera, which liveth between the greater India and earthly Paradise, he is so goodly and fair of colour, that there is no beautiful colour under Heaven but some splendour thereof appears in him : also the smell of him is so delicate, sweet and wholesome, that the very savour cureth all infirmities ; and for his excellent beauty and rare odour, all other Beasts attend and follow him, for he is the Physician to all their sicknesses. This Panthera hath one fair

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Fair bone broad and thin, which whensoever this Beast is slain, and the virtues of the whole Beast do rest in that bone which can never be broken, neither ever rot, consume or perish, either by water, fire, or other violence: yet it is so light,



a small feather may poise it: the smell of it hath that virtue, that whosoever scents it, taketh delight in no other smell whatsoever, and they are presently eased of all manner of diseases and infirmities, and the heart is cheerful and merry ever after.

His Comb is polished like unto fine Silber, and the teeth of it be small and straight; and between the great teeth and the small, in a large field or space, there is graven many an Image subtilly made, and cunningly enamelled about with fine Gold: the field is chequer'd with Sables and Silber, and enamell'd with Skye and Azure: and therein is contained the story how Venus, Juno, and Pallas, strove for the golden Ball in the Mountain Ida, and how it was put to Paris

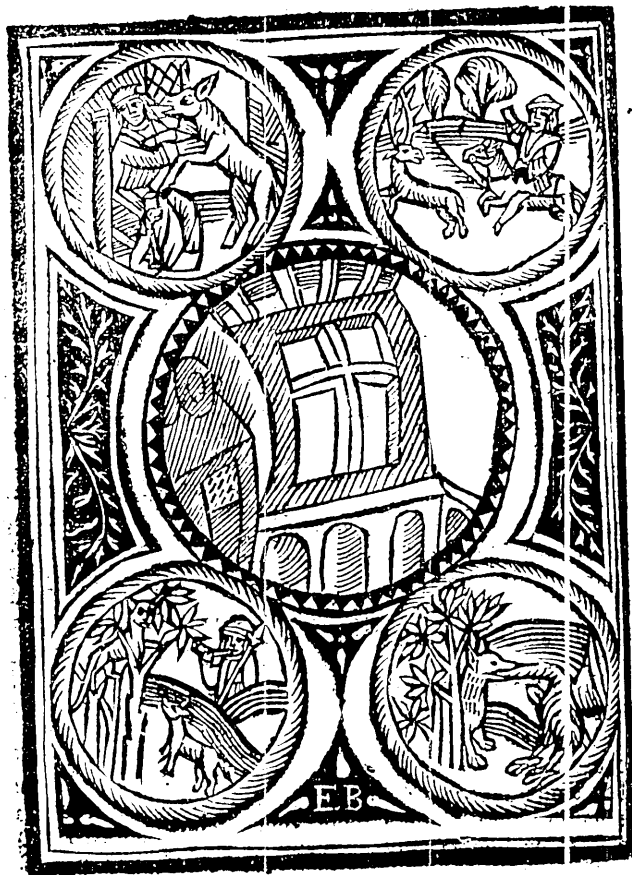
Paris

of Reynard the FOX.

Paris at that time was a Shepard, and kept his Flocke with Onons, on that hill; and as soon as he had received the Ball, Juno promised if he would bestow it on her, she would make him the richest man in the World. Pallas said, That if she might have it, to make him the wisest man in the World, and the most fortunate against his enemies. But then Venus said, what needest thou wealth, wisdom, or valour? Art thou not Priamus son, and Hector's brother, which have all Asia under their power? Art thou not one of the Peirs of mighty Troy? come give me the Ball, and I will give thee the goodliest treasure of the World, and that shall be the fairest Lady breathing; she, whose like no Sun shall ever again behold: so shalt thou be richer then riches, and climb above all in glory: that's is the wealth none can praise too much, since beauty is that heavenly Elixir, which turns all things into joy and contentment.

When Paris heard this, he desired to know the Lady? and Venus said, It is Hellen of Grece, the Wife of King Menelaus; she that is Iem of the World, the treasure of beauty, and the glory of all eyes which did behold her: then presently Paris gave her the Ball, and confirm'd her fairer then the other Goddesses. Then another place was figured how he won Hellen, brought her to Troy, the solemnity at the Marriage, the honour of the Triumphs, and all things else contained in that large story;

Now for the Glass-mirror, it was not inferiour to either of the other: for the glass that stood thereon; was of such virtue, that men might see and perceive therein whatsoever was done within a mile thereof, whether it was the actions of man, or beast, or any thing else the owner should desire to know; and whosoever but gazed therein, if he had any malady whatsoever, it was presently cured. So great were the virtues of this rare Glass, that wonder not if I shed tears to think of the loss: for the wood in which this Glass stood, was light and fast, and is called Oriane, it will last ever: for worms, dust, wet, nor time can consume it, and therefore King Solomon sealed his Temple with the same: the value far exceeding



ing that of gold it is like to the wood Hebenus, of which King Crampart made a horse, for the love of the most beautiful daughter of King Morcadiges. This horse was made with such art within, that whosoever rode on it, if he pleased, he would

would run above an hundred miles in less than an hour, which was appoyed by Clamades the Kings son; who not believing in the Engine, and being young and lusty, leapt upon the Horse, and presently Crampart turning a pin that stood in the Breast of the Engine, moved and went out of the Palace through the Windows, and in the first minute he was gone at least ten miles. Clamades was much affrighted at the wonder, and imagined (as the story said) that he should never have returned back again: But of his long journey, much fear, great trouble, and infinite joy, when he had learned to manage and govern the wooden Beast. I leave to speak for tediousness sake; only the high vertue of all issued from the wood.

Of this wood the Glass-case was made, being larger than the Glass by half a foot and more, square: upon which verge was decyphered divers many strange Histories in Gold, in Silver, Sables Yellow, Azure and Cynope: and these colours were very curiously wrought and interlaid together, and under each History the words so engraven and enamelled, that any man might read the whole story: believe it, the World never produced a thing of greater worth, luster or pleasure. In the upper part thereof stood a Horse in his natural glory, fat, fair, and fiery, which braved a stately Hart which ran before him: but seeing he could not overtake this Hart in swiftness, at which he infinitely disdained, he went to a herdsman standing by, and told him if he would help him to take a Hart which he would shew him, he should have all the profit of the conquest, as the horns, skin, and flesh: When the Herdsman asked him what means he should use to get him: the Horse said, Mount upon my back, and I will bear thee after him, till with tiring we take him. The Herdsman took his offer, and bestriding the Horse, followed the Deer: but he fled away so fast, and got so much ground of the Horse, and with much labour the Horse grew weary, and he bade the Herdsman light, for he would rest him a while. But the Herdsman said, I have a bridle on thy head, and spurs on my heels, therefore know thou art now my servant, neither will I part with thee, but govern thee as seems best to my pleasure. Thus

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the Horse brought himself into thralldom, and was taken in his own net: for no creature hath a greater misfortune than his own envy; and many which labour the hurt of others, still fall upon their own ruins.

In another part was figured an Ass and a Hound, which were both the servants of a rich man. This man loved his Hound exceedingly, and would oft play with him, and suffer the dog to fawn and leap upon him, and now and then to lick him about the mouth. Now when Bauldwin the Ass saw this, he began to envy the Hound, and said, What sees my Master in this foul Hound, that he suffers him thus to leap upon him and kiss him? I see no profitable service he doth him; I labour, bear and draw, and do more service in one week, than the dog and his whole kind are able to do in a year, and yet have I not the tenth of his favours: for he sitteth by his trencher, eats the fat of his meat, and lies on Carpets and Pillows: when I that do all am bed only with Nettles and Whistles: well, I will no longer endure it, but I will study to have my Lords favour as much as the Hound, if not in greater measure. Anon the Master of the house came home, and the Ass lifting up his tail, leapt with his fore feet on his mouth to kiss him, and used such rude unmannerly actions, that he rub'd all his skin from his Masters ears, and almost overthrew him: so that the man was forc'd to cry out, Help, help, for this Ass will kill me. Then come in his servants with staves, and beat the Ass so exceedingly, that he was almost slain: which done, he returned to his stall again, and was an Ass as he was before. In the same manner, they which do envy and spight at others welfare, if they receive the same reward, it is nothing more than is due to their merit: for an Ass is an Ass, and was born to eat Whistles: and where Asses govern, there order is never observed; for they have no eye either on this side, or beyond their own private profit: yet sometimes they are advanced, the more is the pity.

In another part was figured the Story, how my Father and Tibert the Cat travelled together, and had sworn by their troth, that neither for love nor hate they would depart one from the other; but it happened on a time, they saw Hun-

of Reynard the FOX.

ters coming o'er the fields with a Kennel of Hounds, from which they fled apace, for their lives were in danger. Then said the Fox, Tibert whither shall we flee; for the Hunters have espied us? for my own part, I have a thousand wiles to escape them, and as long as we abide together, we shall not need to fear them. But the Cat began to sigh, and was exceedingly afraid, and said, Reynard, what need many words? I have but one wile, and that must help me; and forthwith he clambered up to the top of a high Tree, where he lurk'd amongst the leaves, that neither Huntsman nor Hounds could hurt him, and left my Father to abide the whole hazard, for the whole Kennel pursued him, Horns and Hallowes echoing after him, Kill the Fox, kill the Fox.

This when Tibert saw, he mocked my Father, and said, Now Cousin Reynard, it is time to let loose all your wiles; for if your Wit fail you, I fear your whole body will perish. This my Father hearing from him he most trusted, and being then in the height of his pursuit wearied, and almost spent, he let his male slip from his shoulders, to make himself so much lighter; yet all avail'd not, for the Hounds were so swift they had caught him, had he not by chance espied a hole into which he entred, and escaped the Hounds and Huntsmen. Then you may see the false faith of the Cat, like whom there may be many living at this time; and though this might well excuse me from loving the Cat, yet my souls health and charity binds me to the contrary, and I wish him no hurt, though his misfortunes shall never be grievous to me: not so much for hatred, as the remembrance of his injuries, which often contends against my reason.

Also in that Mirror stands another History of the Wolf, how on a time he found upon a Heath a dead Horse, whose flesh being eaten away, he was fain to gnaw and devour the bones; which he did with such greediness, that swallowing them too hastily down, one fell so cross his throat, that he was almost choak'd, and hardly escap'd with life: whereupon he sought every place for the cunningest Surgeon, promising him great gifts to ease his torments: but having lost much labour, in the end he met with the Crane, and

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and besought him with his long neck and bill to helpe him, and he would highly reward him. The Crane greedy of gain, put in his head into the Wolsfs throat, and brought out the bone. The Wolf started at the pull, and cried out aloud, Thou hurt'st me, but I do forgive thee: yet do it not again I charge thee, for at anothers hands I would not bear it: then the Crane said, Sir Ilegrim, go and be frolick, you are whole, I look for no more but the reward you promised me: How (said the Wolf) what impudence is this? I suffer and have cause to complain, yet he will be rewarded, he will not so much as thank me for his life, but forgets that his head was in my mouth, and how I suffered him to draw it out again without hurting, albeit he put me to exceeding much pain: I suppose it is I, which deserue the reward, and not the Crane.

Thus you may see the fashion of ungrateful men in these days, how they ever rewarded good with evil: for where Pride is exalted, there Honour is ever laid in the dust. There be a world which ought to reward, and do good to those that have advanced them, which now complain, and make those advancements injuries, but the guarden will follow: for it is the wisest counsel, That whosoever will go about to chastise another, should ever be sure of his own cleanness. All this, and a world more than I can well remember, was curiously wrought on this Glass: for the Work-master thereof was the cunningest and profoundest Clark in all Sciences that ever breathed. And because the Jewels were too good and precious for me to keep, therefore I sent them to the King and Queens Majesties as a Present, to witnes my faith and service: And he that had seen what sorow my Children made when I sent the Glass away, would have wondered; for by reason of the great virtue therein, they oft gazed in the same; both to behold themselves, and to see how their cloathing and apparel became them.

Little did I then imagine that good Keyward was so neere his death: for, than but himself, and Bellin the Raim, I knew no messenger worthy to carry such a present. But I will search the whole world, but I will find the murderer; for murderer cannot be hid. It may be, he is in this presence

of Reynard the FOX.

sence which knows what is become of Keyward, albeit he do conceal it; for many Devils walk like Saints. Yet the greatest Wonder of all is (which troubled me most) that my Lord the King should say, that my Father, nor my self, ever did good. But the troubles of affairs may well breed forgetfulness in Kings, otherwise you Majesty might call to mind how when the King your Father lived, and you were a Prince not above two years old, my Father came from the School at Mountpelier, where he had studied five years the Art of Physick, and was expert in all the Principles thereof, and so famous in those days, that he wore cloaths of Silk, and a Golden Girdle. Now when he was come to the Court, he found the King in great extremity of sickness, (which was no little grief unto him, for he loved the King most dearly) and the King rejoiced at his sight, and would not suffer him to be out of his presence. All others might walk whither they would, only he must ever be near him. Then said your Father, Reynard, I am exceeding sick, and I feel my sickness increasing. My father answered, My Lord here is a Urinal, make water therein, and as soon as I behold your state, I will give mine opinion. The King did as he was advised (for he trusted not any equal with him.) Then said my Father, My best Lord, if you will be eased of your grief, you must needs eat the Liqueur of a Wolf of seven years old, or else your disease is incurable.

The Wolf at that time stood by your Father, but said nothing: whereupon the King said, Sir Ilegrim, you hear how there is nothing which can cure me but your Liqueur. The Wolf replied, Not so my Lord, for I am not yet full five years old. It is no matter (answered my Father) let him be opened, and when I see the Liqueur, I will tell you if it be medicinable. Then was the Wolf carried to the Kitchen, and his Liqueur taken out, which the King did eat, and was presently cured of his sickness, When the King thanked my Father, and commanded all his Subjects on pain of death, from thenceforth to call him Master Reynard. So he abode still about the King, walking by his side, and was trusted in all things, and the King gave him (for an honour) a Garland of Roses, which he must ever

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wear upon his head. But these remembrances are a l lost and gone, and his enemies are now only advanced; virtue is put back; and innocence lives in sorrow: for when baseness and covetousness are made commanders, they neither know themselves, nor look at the lowliness from whence they are risen. They have no hearts for pity, nor ears for the poor mans cause. Gold is the Gole they run to, and gifts the God which they worship. What great mans Gate doth not look upon Covetousness? where is not flattery entertained? and what Prince takes hate at his own praises? But should greatness need their honest service, well might they starve ere they could gain that employment: for like Wolves, they had rather see their Masters die, than lend them the least part of their Liquor.

This, my Lord, was an accident which fell in your mouth, and you may well forget it: Yet (without boasting) I my self may say, I have done to you both Honour and service, and you haply also forget this which I shall repeat, which I vow I do not to upbraid your Majesty, for you are ever worthy of more than I can render, and my uttermost is but the rent of a loyal Subject, which I am ever bound by the Laws of God and Nature to perform.

So it was, that on a time Hegrim the Wolf and I had gotten a Swine under us, and by reason of his extream loud crying, we were compelled to bite him to death. At which time your self came out of a Globe unto us, and saluted us friendly, saying, That you and the Queen your Wife which came after you, were both exceeding hungry and intreated us to give you part of our getting: Hegrim then whispered in such manner, that none could understand him: but I spake out aloud, With all my heart my Lord, and were it better than it is, it were too mean for your service. But Hegrim according to his wont departed grumbling, and took half of the Swine, giving you and the Queen but one poor quarter, the other he himself unmannerly devoured, and left me for my share but poor half of the Lungs. When your Majesty had eaten your part, you were still hungry, but the Wolf would deliver none: so that you reacht him a blow with your foot, which tore all the skin from about his ears,

so

of Reynard the F O X.

so that he ran away crying and howling with extremity. But your Majesty commanded him to return again speedily, and bring you more meat, but he went away grumbling. When I besought your Majesty, that I might go with him: and I well remember your answer. So away we went together, his ears dropping blood all the way as he went: in the end, we took a Calf, and when your Majesty saw us bring it, you laughed and said to me, I was a swift Huntsman, and could find my game quickly, and therefore I was fit to serve in time of necessity; When you bade me to divide it, and I did it, and gave one half thereof to your Majesty: the other half to the Queen: As for the Puggets, Liver, Lungs and all the inwards, I sent them to the young Princes your Children: As for the Head, I gave it to Hegrim the Wolf, and took unto my self but the Feet only. Then said your Majesty, Ah Reynard, who taught you to make these courteous divisions? My Lord (answered I) that did this Wicke which sits here with his bloody pate; for he lost his skin for his too much inequality, and for his covetousness hath reaped nothing but shame and dishonour. But it matters not, for there be many Wolves in these days, that would even eat up their best friends and kindred: Nay, if they had power, even your Majesty also; for they make no respect either of friend or enemy. But too to that Common-wealth where such have the upper hand and government.

My gracious Lord, this and many such like actions as this have I done for your Majesty, which were it not for tediousness sake, I could well repeat. But they are all now cast out of your remembrance, but time and my loyalty I hope will one day again recall them. I have seen the day when no matter was finished in the Court without my advice and censure: though now that Judgement is not so reputed, yet it may be the same reputation may spring up again, and be believed as firmly as before, as long as it swerves not from Justice, which is the only thing I aim at. For if any one can charge me otherwise; and prove it by witness, here I stand to endure the uttermost the Law can inflict upon me: But if malice only slander me without witness, I crave the Combat according to the Law, and

instance

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instance of the Court. Then said the King, Reynard, you say well: nor know I any thing more of Raywards death, than the bringing of his head unto me by Bellin the Ram; therefore of it I here acquit you. My dear Lord (said the Fox) I humbly thank you: yet is his death so grievous unto me, I cannot let it pass so easie: I remember, my heart was heavy at his departure, and I was ready to sink to the ground, which was a certain presage of the loss which happened.

These words, and the sad looks of the Fox so amazed all the beholders, that they could not chuse but believe all that he uttered, so that every one bemoan'd his loss, and pitied his sorrow. But the King and Queen were most touched with the same, and then intreated him that he would make diligent search for the finding them out, for his praises had stricken them far in love with the Jewels. And because he told them, he had sent those Jewels unto them (though they never saw them) yet they gave him as great thanks, as if they had been in their safe possession, and desired him he would be a means they might be restored to them again.

C H A P.

of Reynard the FOX. C H A P. XXII.

How *Reynard* made his peace with the King, and how *Isegrim* the Wolf complained of him again.

THE Fox understood their meaning exceeding well, and though he little meant to perform what they intreated,



yet he thanked the King and Queen for the comforts they gave

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gave him in his great extremity, bowing not to rest either night or day, but to search all the corners of the Earth till he had found what was become of those Jewels: also intreating his Majesty, that if they should be concealed in such places where he might be withstood by force, so as neither his prayers nor power might attain unto them, that then his Highness would assist him: both because it was an occasion which concerned him nearly, as also a thing required from his office, being an act of perfect Justice, to punish those, and murther both, which were concerned in his action.

Then the King answered him, that so soon as it should be known where they were, no help or assistance should be wanting. The Fox gave the King humble thanks, for now he had gotten all his purposes to the wished end he expected, and by his false tale and flattery, had so fastened the King unto him, that now he might go freely whither he pleased, and none should dare to complain upon him: only lest the Wolf stood all this while infinitely displeased, and not able to contain his anger any longer he said, O my Lord the King! is it possible your Majesty should be so childish or weak of belief, as to fix your trust on the falshood of this ever deceiving Merchant, which hath nothing but Shadows and Chymera's wherewith to enchant you? O be not so easily seduced, he is a wretch altogether covered and besmeared with murther and treason, and when to your own face hath made a scoff of your Majesty. For my own part I am glad he is here in your presence, and I intend to ring him such a Deal of contrary nature, that all the lies he can invent, shall not bear him away with safety.

So it is (my dread Lord that this dissembling and false Traitor, not long since did betray my Wife most shamefully; for it happened on a Winters day, that they two travelled together through a very great water, and he persuaded my Wife that he would reach her a singular Art how to catch fish with her rail, by letting it hang Angle-wise in the water a good while: whereunto he said, there would so much fish instantly cleave, that half a

dozen

of Reynard the FOX.

dozen of them should not be able to devour it. The silly fool my Wife (supposing all to be truth which came from him) went presently into the mire up to the belly before



she came to the water; and coming into the depth of the water (as he directed her) she held her tail down still in the water, expecting when the fish should cleave there to: but the weather being sharp and frosty, she stood there so long, that her tail was frozen hard to the Ice, so that

all

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all the force she had, was not able to pull it out: but when this lustful villain beheld that, he presently leapt upon her and ravisht her, in such beastly and shameful manner, that no modest ear is able to hear the odiousness of the action. My poor Wife being disarmed of all resistance, well might she shriek, cry, and feed upon the brine of her own tears, but all to no purpose; the deed was done, and the villain triumphed. This no Impudence can make him deny, for I came and took him in the act: how much! jealousy, grief and fury assailed me at that instant, I was even distracted to behold them: and crying, Reynard, villain, what art thou doing? but he seeing me so near approaching, presently leapt from her, and ran his way: so I went unto her with much sorrow and heaviness, having a world of labour ere I could break the Ice about her; and in despite of all my cunning, yet she was compelled to leave a piece of her tail behind her: and indeed, we both escaped hardly with our lives. For by reason of the great anguish she endured, she barked so loud, the people of the next Village rose up, and came with Sticks and Bils, with Flails and Pitch-forks, and the Wives with their Distaffs; and so fiercely assaulted us, crying kill, kill, and slay, slay, that I never was in so desperate a raking. One slave amongst the rest, which was strong, and swift of foot, hurt us sore with a Pike-staff; and had not the night befriended us, we had never escaped that danger. From hence we came into a field full of Brooms and Brambles, where we hid us from the fury of our enemies. Thus my Gracious Lord, you have heard how this Traitor and Murderer hath used us, and against the same we crave the right of your Law and Justice.

But Reynard answered, and said, If this were true, I confess it would touch me near in Honour and Reputation: but God forbid that such a slander should be proved against me: I confess, I taught her to catch fish, and taught her how to enter the water, and never touch the mire: but her greediness so transported her, when she heard me name the fish, that she ran without respect of any path or direction;

an d

of Reynard the FOX.

and so coming into the Ice, she was there presently frozen, the reason of her too long tarrying, for she had more fish than would have satisfied twenty reasonable appetites: but it is commonly seen, that who all would have, all forego: for covetousness seldom bringeth any thing well home: when I saw her so fastened in the Ice, I used all my best endeavours to loosen her, and so indeed was heaving and sobbing about her, but to little purpose; for by reason of her weight I was not able to move her. Now whilst this was in doing, came Megrim, and seeing me so busied about her, Churl-like he most vilely slandered me, like a profuse tattler, which takes delight to be accounted a Cuckold: but believe it, my gracious Lord, all was false, and his Wife virtuous, for any thing which in my knowledge; whence I am persuaded, that surely his eyes dazzled; for indeed, he uttered many a grievous curse, and threatened much revenge against me; so that more to eschew his blasphemy than fury, I went my way; and he came, and with as great ado, as much heaving and groaning he helped her out; which done (than they almost starved with cold) ran and skipped up and down the fields to get them heat; and that this is all truth which I have spoken, I will willingly be deposed; for I would not be the father of any falsehood before your Majesty, to be Master of many millions: however my fortunes go, I respect not, Truth is my lady, and hath ever been the Ensign of all my Ancestors: and if there be any scruple or doubt made of mine assertion, I ask but eight days liberty, that I may confer with my Learned Council, and I will so approve all my words, by Oath and Testimony of good and sufficient witnesses, that your Majesty, and your Honourable Council shall accord to the justness of my protestation. As for this Wolf, what have I to do with him? It is well known already, that he is a debauched and almost notorious villain; false both to Heaven and your Majesty; and now his own words witness him a base slanderer of Women: therefore I refer my self to the trial of his Wife: if she accuse me, let the world hold me guilty; provided he may be made free from her husband, whose tyrannical

The Moral.
By the complaint of the Wolf is shewed, the end man bears another, and how loath they are that any of the contrary actions should scape punishment; So that to gain revengement, they care not what indignity they do to themselves, as they doth appear by the Wolf's standing of his own wife. By the rising of the Town up against the Wolf and his wife, is shewed that one mischief seldom cometh to all folks. but another still follows in at the heels. By the Fox's excuse, is shewed how policy hath ever an evasion for any evil it doth, and can colour every thing with a pretence of

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Soe much. The
Fox's con-
tempt of the
Wolf, shews
that strength
or policy con-
sists in dis-
gracing the
adverse part,
& calling his
good name in
question, by
which means
he may lose
his life and
credit. By the
the Wolf fall-
ling into the
Well, shews
the effect of
covetousness,
which never

tyranny will compel her to say any thing, though never
so unjustly.

At this, forth stept Dame Arsewind the Wolves Wife, and
said, O Richard, thou hast so only a smooth tongue, and
so apt in flattery, that no man is safe from thine inchan-
ment: it is not once but oft thou hast deceived me: remem-
ber but how thou didst use me at the Well with those Buckets,
which hanging at one cord, and running through one Pul-
ley, which ever as one went down, the other went up, I
remember how thou getting into one of them, fellst down
to the bottom of the Well, and there saicst in great danger
and peril, so that I ran thither with great haste, and heard
thee sigh and make great moan: then asking thee how thou
cam'st there? thou answerd'st me that thou wert there a fish-
ing; and hadst so much fish, of which thou hadst eaten so ma-
ny, that thy belly was ready to break with swelling: then
I asked how I might come to thee; and thou said'st, Aunt,
leap into that Bucket which hangeth there, and thou wilt



be

of Reynard the F O X.

presently with me: which I no sooner did, but (being brought
much heavier than thy self) I fell presently to the bottom
of the Well, and thou camest up to the top: at which
when I seemed to be angry, thou saidst, Aunt, this is
at the fashion of the World: ever as one comes up, ano-
ther must go down; and so said, you leapt out of the
Bucket, and ran your way, leaving me there all alone,
where I remained a whole day, pined with hunger, and
starved with cold; and ere I could get out from thence,
receiving so many blows, that my life was never in greater
danger. The Fox replied, Aunt, though the strokes were
painful unto you, yet I had rather you should have them
than my self, for you are stronger, and better able to bear
them; and at that time of necessity one of us could not
escape them: besides Aunt, I taught you wisdom and ex-
perience, that you should not trust either friend or foe,
when the matter he perswades to, is the adding of his
own peril: for nature teacheth us to love our own Welfare,
and he which doth otherwise, is crowned with nothing but
the title of folly.

Then said Dame Arsewind to the King: I beseech your
Majesty, mark how this dissembler can blow with all
winds, and paint his mischief with false colours: a
world of times hath he brought me into these hazards.
Once he betray'd me to my Aunt the She-Ape, where ere
I escaped, I was fain to leave one of my ears behind me:
if the Fox dare tell the truth of the story (for I know his
memory to be much better: besides, he is apt to catch
advantage from the weakness of Language) I desire no
better evidence against him. Then said the Fox, Wil-
lingly I will do it, and without flattery or falsehood, and
therefore I beseech your Majesty to lend me your Royal
Patience.

Upon a certain time the Wolf here came to me into
the Wood, and complained unto me, that he was exco-
ding hungry, (yet never saw him fuller in my life) but
he would ever dissemble: at which, presently I took pity
of him, and said, I was also as hungry as he: so away
we went and travelled half a day together without find-
ing

brings any
thing home
but loss and
danger; and
that policy
does not who
pines, to be
free no pain,
as appears by
the Fox's
tempting her
into the Buc-
ket. By their
entering into
the the-Ape:
Cave is shew-
ed, the differ-
ence betwixt
temperance &
richness, and
how far good
words will
prevail before
rule and chris-
tian behavi-
our.

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ing any thing; then began he to whine and cry, and say he was able to go no further. Then hard by the foot of an Hawthorn tree, we espied a hole all covered over with Brambles, and hear a great rushing therein, but could not imagine the cause why: then I desired the Wolf to go in, and look if any thing were there to profit us, (for something I knew there was) then said he Cousin, would not creep into the whole for a hundred pounds till I know certainly what is therein, for there may be danger but if you please to attempt it, who I know hath both Art and Wit to save your self, I will stay here under this Tree till you return; but I beseech you make haste, and let me know what is therein, as soon as you perceive it.

Behold my dread Lord the King, thus he made me, poor silly Beast, to go before into the hazard, and he who is great, strong and mighty, did abide without in peace, wherein I express no little friendship, for I would not endure the like danger for a Kingdom: but to proceed, I entered into the hole, and found the way dark, long, and tedious: in the end I espied a great light, which came in on the other side of the hole, by which, I saw there lying a great Fire-Serpent, with eyes glimmering and sparkling with fire, her mouth set round with long sharp teeth, and on her hands, nails sharp as an Elfin, or Wodkin. I imagined her at first a Charmazin, or Baboon, or else a Werewolf, for a more dreadful Beast I never beheld in all my life time, and by her side lay divers of her Children, which like her self were cruel and stern of countenance: when they saw me come towards them, they gaped wide with their mouths upon me, so that I grew amazed, and with't my self far from their harbour. But resolving with my self, that now I was in, I must quit my self as well as I could, I looked more constantly upon her, and methought she appeared bigger than Hecubim the Wolf, and the least of her brats much larger than my self (for a fouler company I never saw) they were all laid in foul litter, rotten and dirty with their own piss, they were all dandied and clogged with their own dung, which stunk

of Reynard the I C Y.

so filthily, that I was almost suffocated with the smell. For my own part, I durst not but speak them fair, and therefore I said, Aunt, God give you many good days, and bless you and my Cousins, your pretty Children: questionless they are the fairest of their ages that ever I beheld; and so surpass in beauty and perfection, that they may well be accounted of most princely Issue. Truly Aunt, we are infinitely beholding to you that doth add this increase and glory to your family. For mine own part (dear Aunt) when I heard you were laid down and delivered, I could not stay, but needs must come and visit you. Then replied she, Cousin Reynard, you are exceedingly welcome: you have found me like a slut, but I thank you for your kind visitation: you are a worthy Gentleman, and (thorow the Kings Dominions) for your wit and judgement, held of singular reputation; you do much honour to our kindred, and are famous for the means you work to their preferment: I must intreat you to take the charge of my Children, and instruct them in the rules of knowledge and science, that they may know hereafter how to live in the World. I have thought of you ever since they were born, and resolved upon this, Cousin, because I knew your perfection, and that you accompanied your self with the good and virtuous.

Oh how glad was I when I heard those words to proceed from her! which kindness was only because at first I called her Aunt, who indeed was no foul kin unto me: for my true Aunt indeed is only Dame Rukewaw, which standeth ponder: who indeed is mother of excellent Children. Yet notwithstanding I answered this foul Monster: Aunt, my life and goods are both at your service, and what I can do for you night or day, shall ever be at your Commandment, and your Childrens. Yet I most heartily wish my self far from them at that instant, for I was almost suffocated with their stink. And I pitied Hecubim, who was so grievously troubled with hunger all this while: and offering to take my leave, feigning that my wife would think it long till my return, she said, Dear Cousin, you shall not depart till you have eaten something, I shall take it un-

kindly if you offer it: then rose she up: and carri'd me into an inner Room; where was great store of all kind of Venison: both the Red Deer, Fallow-Deer, and Roeb, and great store of Partridge, Pheasant, and other fowls, that I amazed much from whence such store of meat should come. Now when I had eaten sufficiently, she gave me a side, and half a haunch of an Hind to carry home to my Wife, which I was ashamed to take, but that she compelled me: and so taking my leave; and being intreated often to visit her, I did depart from thence, much joyful that I had sped so well.

Now being come out of the Causey, I spied wherets Legum lay groaning pitifully; and I asked him how he fared? He said wondrous ill, and so extremely ill, that (dear Rephe) without some meat, I die presently: then did I take compassion on him, and gave him my wifes token, which preserved his life; and for which then he gave me a world of thanks, though now he hate me extremely. But as soon as he had deboured up my Venison, he said, Reynard, my Dear Cousin, what found you in the hole? believe it I am now more hungry than I was before; and this small morsel hath but sharpened my teeth to eat more. Then said I to him, Uncle, get you into the hole, and you shall find store of Victuals; for there lieth my Aunt with her Children: if you can flatter and speak her fair, you need fear no hard measure, all things will be as you would wish it.

I think (my gracious Lord) this was warning sufficient, and that which might have armed any wise spirit; but rude and barbarous Beasts will never understand wisdom. And therefore they loath the policies they know not; But per he promised to follow my counsel: so forth he went into that foul stinking hole, and found the Ape in that filthy sort as before I described, which when he saw (being affrighted) he cried out, Wo and alas, I think I am come into hell: did ever creature see such fearful goblins? drawn them, for shame drawn them, they are so ugly, they are able to scare the Devil; why, they make my hair stand an end with their horrid deformity. Then (said she)

Sir

Sir Negrim, their Creation is not my fault let it suffice they are my Children, and I am their Mother. Nor ought their beauty or hard labour to displease you: here was a kinsman of theirs too day, and is but newly departed, who is well known to exceed you both in birth, virtue and wisdom, and he accounted them fair and lovely; for your opinion I care not: therefore you may depart at your pleasure. Then he replied, Dame, I would have you know, that I would eat of your meat, it is much better bestowed on me, than on those ugly Archins. But she told him, she had no meat: Pea (said he) here is meat enough; and with that, offering to reach at the meat, my Aunt started up with her Children, and ran at him with their sharp nails, and so clawed him, that the blood ran about his ears, and I heard him cry and howl so extremely, that it appeared he had no defence but to run out of the hole as fast as he could. For indeed, he came out both extremely beaten, and extremely bitten, and all his skin flay'd like a Spanish Jerkin: and one ear left behind, as a patron of his manners.

This when I saw, I asked him if he had flattered sufficiently; and he said, he had spoken as he found; for the Dame was a foul Bitch, and the Litter most ugly Monsters. Then I told him, how he should have commended their beauties, and took them for the best of his alliance. And he replied, he had rather have seen them all hang'd. Then (quoth I) you must always receive such reward as now you do, but wisdom would do otherwise; a lie sometimes as much availeth, as a true tale: and fair words never come out of season; and better than we, hold it for a rule worthy of Imitation.

Thus my Lord, I have told you truly how he came by his red Night-cap, which I know he cannot, nor dare to deny, for all is true, without any addition.

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CHAP. XXIII.

How *Isegrim* proffer'd his Glove to *Reynard* to fight with him, which *Reynard* accepted: and how *Rukemar* advised the Fox to carry himself in the Fight.

THE WOLF answered the Fox, I may well forbear false Villain, as thou art) thy mocks and scozns, but thine injuries I will not. Thou say, I was almost dead for hunger, when thou helpt me in my need: but thou liest falsely therein, for it was nothing but a bare bone thou gavest me, when thou hadst gnawed all the meat thereof: and therefore know, in this thou iniurest my reputation; again, thou accusest me of Treason against the King, and to conspire his Majesties death, for certain Treasure thou sayest is in Husterloe: also thou hast abused and slandered my Wife, which will ever be an infamy to her name, if it be not revenged: these things considered, I have forborne you long, therefore now look not to escape, wherefore seeing there is no other testimony but our own Consciences: before you my Lord the King, and the rest of my Noble Lords, friends and alliances, here I will affirm and approve to the last drop of my Blood, that thou *Reynard the Fox*, art a false Traitor and a Murderer, and this I will approve and make good upon thy body within the Lists of the field, body against body, by which means our strife shall have an end; and in witness whereof, I cast thee here my Glove, which I dare thee to take up, that I may have right for my injuries, or else dye like a recreant.

Reynard was something perplexed when he saw this, for he knew himself much too weak for the Wolf, and feared to come by the worst: but straight remembering the advantage he had, by reason the Wolfs fore-claws were pulled away, and that they were not yet fully cured, whatsoever he be that saith I am a Traitor or a Murderer, I say, he lieth in his Throat, especially *Isegrim* above all others: poor fool, thou bringest me to the place I desire, and to the purpose I wish for, in sign whereof I take up the gage, and

of *Reynard the FOX*.



and throw down mine, to prove all thy words lyes and falsehoods.

This said, the King received their pledges, and admitted the Battle, commanding them to put in their surety, that the next morrow they should try the Combat: then slept forth the Bear, and the Cat, and were sureties for the Wolf: and for the Fox were sureties *Grimbard the Brock*, and *Betclas*. When all Ceremonies were finished, the She-Ape took *Reynard* aside, and said, Nephew, I beseech you take



The Moral.

By the Wolf's
challenging
the combat of
the Fox, is
shewed the
madness of
rage and fury,
and how re-
giment it is in
respecting its
own hazard:
for it may do
much mischief
to the adversary.
The Fox's
accepting of
it, shews how
when policy
hath no other
thing to hold
that then it
grows despe-
rate, and will
eat the any

take care of your self in this Battle, be bold and wise, your Uncle taught me once a Prayer of singular virtue for him which was to fight: and he learned it of that excellent Scholar and Clark, the Abbot of Budeo. and he that faith this Prayer with a good devotion fasting, shall never be overcome in Combat: and therefore my best Nephew be not afraid, for tomorrow I will read it over to you, and the Wolf shall never prevail against you. The Fox gave her many thanks for her favours, and told her his quarrel was good and honest, and therefore he had no doubt of his happy success: so all that night he tarried with his kinsfolks about him, who drabe away the time with pleasant discourse. But Dame Rukenaw his Aunt still leat her brain how to work him advantage in the Combat: wherefore she caused all his hair to be shaved off even from his head to the tail, and then she anointed all his body quite over with oyl Olive, so that she made it so smooth and slippery, that the Wolf could catch no hold of him: besides he was round, fat, and plump of body, which much

availed

availed to his advantage: then she advised him that night to drink exceedingly much: that he might be more apt to pisse in the morning, but in no wise to shed any till he came into the field: then (said she) when you are in the fight, and see time sitting, pisse upon your bushy tail, and strike it in the Wolf's face, and as near as you can into his eyes, by which means blinding his sight, he shall be little able to offend you: but at these special times keep your tail as close as can be between your legs, lest he catch hold thereon, and pull you to the ground: also look carefully to your self at the first, and by all means shun his blows, making him to togl and run after you, especially there where most durst is, and spring it up with your feet, make it flee in his eyes, take your advantage, and smite and bite him where you may do him most mischief, ever and anon striking him on the face with your tail full of pisse, and that will take from him both sight and understanding: besides, it will so tire and weary him, that his feet not being fully cured of their hurt, by the loss of his shoo's, which you caused to be pulled off, he will not be able to pursue you: for though he be great, yet his heart is little and weak. This (Nephew) is mine advice, and assure your self in these cases, Art prevailleth as much as courage; therefore regard your self well, that not only your self, but your whole family may gain honour and reputation from your fortune: as for the charm of Prayer which your Uncle Martin taught me, by which you may be invincible, it is this which followeth. Then laying her hand upon his head, she said, Blaerd, Shay, Alphenio, Rasbue, Gorfons, Arsburro. Now Nephew, assure your self you are free from all mischief or danger whatsoever, therefore go to your rest, for it is near day, and some sleep will make the Body better disposed.

The Fox gave her infinite thanks, and told her she had bound him (to her) a servant for ever: and in those holy words she had spoken, he had placed his confidence unremovable; and so he laid him down to rest under a Tree in the grass, till it was Sun-rise: at what time the Otter came

thing, to the
utmost
danger.

By the five-
Apes comde,
is shewed, the
care of a true
friend, which
is then ever
most true,
when he sees
his companion
in danger,
and leaves no
way unfought
that may free
him from
trouble.

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came unto him and awaked him, and gave him a fat young Duck to eat, saying, Dear Cousin I have toiled all this night to get this present for you, which I took from a Fowler, here take and eat it, and it shall give you vigour and courage. The Fox gave him many thanks, and said, it was fortunate hanfel, and if he surived that day, he



should

of Reynard the FOX.

should find he would require it: so the Fox eat the Duck without bread or sauce, more than his hunger, and so it he drank four great draughts of water, and then he went to the place appointed, where the liss stood, with all his kindred attending on him.

When the King beheld Reynard thus horn and opled, he said to him: Well Fox, I see you are careful of your own



is

safer:

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safety: you respect not bootie, so you escape danger. The Fox answered not a word, but bowing himself down humbly to the Earth, both before the King and the Queen's Majesties, went forth into the field, and at the same time the Wolf was also ready, and stood boasting, and giving out many proud and vain-glorious speeches. The Marshals and Rulers of the Lists, were the Libbard, and the Wolf. These brought forth a Book, on which the Wolf swore, and maintained his assertion, That the Fox was a Traytor, and a murderer, which he would prove on his body, or else be counted a Recreant. When Reynard took the Book, and swore, he lied as a false Traytor and a Thief, which he would prove on his body, or be accounted a Recreant.

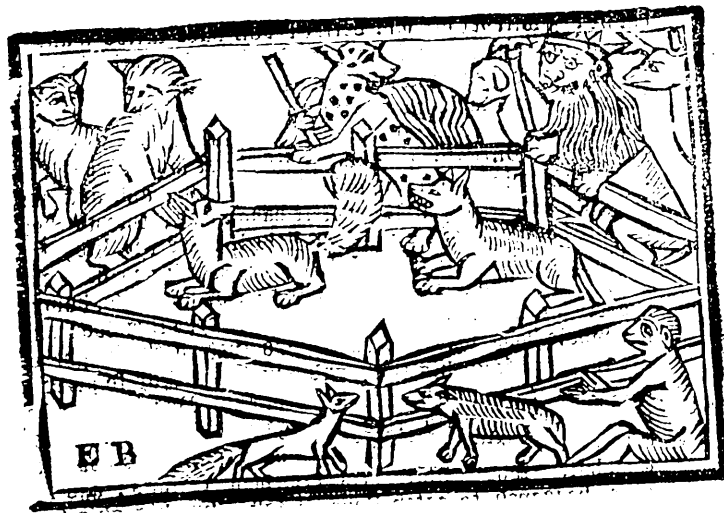
When these Ceremonies were done, the Marshals of the field had them to their devoir. And then every creature avoided the Lists, save Dame Rukenaw, who stood by the Fox, and bade him remember the words and instructions she had given him, and call to mind, how when he was scarce seven years old, he had then wisdom enough to pass the darkest night without Lanthorn or Candle-light, or the help of the Moon, when any occasion required him: and that his experience was much greater, and his reputation of wisdom more frequent with his companions: and therefore to work so as he might win the day, which would be an eternal Monument to him and his family for ever. To this the Fox answered (my best Aunt) assure your self I will do my best, and not forget a tittle of your Counsel: I doubt not but my friends shall reap honour, and my foes shame by my actions: to this the Ape said, Amen; and so departed.

CHAP.

of Reynard the FOX.

CHAP. XIV.

Of the Combat betwixt the Fox and the Wolf;
the Event, Passages, and Victory.



When none but the Combatants were in the Lists, the Wolf went toward the Fox with infinite rage and fury, and thinking to take the Fox in his fore-feet, the Fox leapt nimbly from him, and the Wolf pursued him; so that there began a tedious chase between them, on which their friends gazed. The Wolf taking larger strides than the Fox, often overtook him; and lifting up his feet to strike him, the Fox avoided the blow, and smote him on the face with his tail, which was all so be-pist, that the Wolf was stricken almost blind, the pist imparted so extreample. And he was forced to rest while he cleared his eyes: which advantage when Reynard saw, he scratched up the dust with his feet, and threw it in the eyes of the Wolf.

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which grieved him worse than the former; so that he durst follow him no longer, for the dust and sand sticking in his eyes, smarted so sore, that of force he must rub and wash it away; which Reynard seeing, with all the fury he had, he ran upon him, and with his teeth gave him three sore wounds on his head, and scoffing said, have I hit you yet? Wolf? I will yet hit you better: you have killed many a Lamb, and many an innocent Beast, and would impose the fault upon me, but you shall find the price of your knavery, I am markt to punish thy sins, and I will give thee the absolution bravely. It is good thou use patience, for Hell is Purgatory, and thy life is at my mercy: Yet notwithstanding, if thou wilt kneel down, and ask me forgiveness, and confess thy self banquished, though thou heest the worst thing living, yet I will spare thy life, for my pity makes me loath to kill thee. These words made him both mad and desperate, so that he knew not how to express his fury: his wounds bled, his eyes smarted, and his whole body was oppressed. So that in the height of his fury he lift up his foot, and struck the Fox so great a blow, that he fell'd him to the ground. But Reynard being nimble, quickly rose up again, and encountered the Wolf, that between them began a dreadful and doubtful Combat. The Wolf was exceeding furious, and ten times he leaped to catch Reynard fast, but his skin was so slippery and oyle, he could not hold him. Nay, so wondrous nimble was he in the fight, that when the Wolf thought to have him surest, he would shift himself between his legs, and under his belly, and every time gave the Wolf a bite with his teeth, or a swap on the face with his tail, that the poor Wolf found nothing but despair in the conflict, albeit his strength was much the greater.

Thus many wounds and biteings passed on either side; the one expressing cunning, and the other strength; the one fury, the other temperance. In the end, the Wolf being enraged that the battle had continued so long (for had his feet been sound, it had been much shorter) he said to himself, I will make an end of this Combat; for I know my very weight is able to crush him to pieces, and I

of Reynard the FOX.

so much of my reputation to suffer him thus long to contend against me And this said, he struck the Fox



again so sore a blow on the head with his foot, that he fell down to the ground, and ere he could recover himself, and arise

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The Moral.

By the Wolf's furious assail- ing the Fox, and the Fox his watching and pursuing, and the Fox's advantages, is shewed the folly of rage and passion, and the discre- tion of temperance and wisdom: the first never bringing any thing but loss, the other commonly accompanied with honour and safety. By the pit-tail, is exprest the sharp afflictions with which wil- dom ever pun- ishes rebels, and by the loss of the Wolf's eye, is shewed, that madness and rage, ever- more but blindness.

The Wolf's chasing the Fox, and hold- ing him in his paw, shews the power of a better re- venger, who, by years' moli- but never gives them

arise, he caught him in his feet, and threw him under him, lying upon him in such wise, as if he would have prest him to death.

Now began the Fox to be grievously afraid, and all his friends began to shout for joy: but the Fox defended him- self (as well as he could) with his claws, lying along; but the Wolf could not hurt him with his claws, his feet were so sore; only with his teeth he snatched at him to bite him; which when the Fox saw, he smote the Wolf on the head with his fore-claws, so that he tore the skin between his brows, and his ears, and one of his eyes hung out of his head, which put the Wolf to infinite torment, and he howled out extremity; then Legrim wiping his face, the Fox took advantage thereof, and with his clauging got upon his feet.

At which the Wolf was angry, and striking after him, caught the Fox in his arms, and held him fast: never was Reynard in so great a strait as then, for that time grew was their contention: but anger now made the Wolf forget his smart: and griping the Fox altogether, under him, as Reynard was defending himself, his hand light into Legrim's mouth, so that he was in danger to lose it. The Wolf said the Wolf to the Fox, now either yield thyself as ban- quished, or else certainly I will kill thee; neither thy but thy pifs, thy mocks, nor any subtil invention shall save thee; thou art now left utterly desperate, and thy wounds must have their satisfaction. When the Fox heard this, he thought it was a hard Election; for both brought his ruin; and suddenly concluding, he said, Dear Uncle, since fortune commands me, I yield to be your Servant: at your Commandment I will travel for you to the Holy Land, or any other Pilgrimage, or do any service which shall be beneficial to your soul, or the soul of your Father's fathers: I will do for the King or for our Holy-father the Pope: I will hold of you my Lands and Revenues; as I, so shall the rest of my kindred: so that you shall be Lord of many Lords, and none shall dare to move against you: Besides, whatsoever I get of Pillins, Geese, Hares, bridges, or Plover, flesh or fish, you, your wife and children, shall have the first choice ere any come in. my belly,

of Reynard the F O X.

will ever stand by your side, and wheresoever you go, no danger shall come near you: you are strong, and I am sub- we two joynd together, what force can prevail against us? Again, we are so near in blood, that nature forbids there should be any enmity between us: I would not have fight against you, had I been sure of victory, but that you appealed, and then you know of necessity I must do uttermost; I have also in this battle been courteous to you, and not shewed my worst violence, as I would on a danger; for I know it is the duty of a Nephew to spare his Uncle: and this you may well perceive by my run- ning from you. I tell you, it was an action much contrary to my nature: for I might have often hurt you when I pleased, nor are you worse for me by any thing more than the blemish of your eye, for which I am sorry, and wish it had not happened: yet thereby know, that you shall reap no other benefit than loss thereby, for when other Beasts in their sleep shut two windows, you shall shut but one. As for my wife, children, and lineage, they shall fall down at your feet, before you in my presence: therefore I humbly de- ceive you, that you will suffer poor Reynard to live. I know you will kill me, but what will that avail you, when you shall never be in safety for fear of revengement of my kindred? Where- fore temperance in any mans wrath is excellent, whereas rashness is ever the Mother of repentance: but Uncle, I know you to be valiant, wise, and discreet, and you rather seek ho- nour, peace, and good fame, than blood and revenge.

Legrim the Wolf said, Infinite dissembler, how fain wouldst thou be freed of my servitude? How well I understand thee, and know that if thou wert safe on thy feet, thou wouldst for- wear this submission: but know, all the wealth in the world shall not buy out thy ransom; for thee and thy friends I esteem them not, nor believe any thing thou hast uttered: How well I know thee, and am no bird for thy Lime-bush, that cannot deceive me: How wouldst thou triumph, if I should believe thee, and say, I wanted wit to understand thee: but thou shalt know, I can look both on this side, and beyond thee; thy many deceits used upon me, have now harmed me against thee. Thou saidst, thou hast spared me in

the

the benefits. The Fox has flattered of the Wolf, shews, That whensoever wisdom is op- pressed, it hath yet still one temperate means, either to gain his own liberty; and that fair words do ever either vanquish, or astonish. Last- ly, by the weak Foxes conquering the strong Wolf, is shew- ed, that in all these accidents of change, nei- ther force, rage, nor vio- lence, do pre- vail to much as wisdom, discretion, and tempe- rate, and wa- ry carriage.

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the battle: but look upon me, and my wounds will shew how false thou liest. thou never gav'st me a time to breathe in; will I now give thee a minute to repent in; and the rather when I think of the dishonour thou didst to my bed, and how inhumanly thou did'st ravish my dear wife Dame Arlewint.

Now, whilst Isegrim was thus talking, the Fox betwixt himself how he might best get free; and thrusting his right hand down between his legs, he caught the Wolf fast by the stones, and he wozung him so extreemly and hard thereby that he made him shriek and howl out with the anguish: then the Fox drew his other hand out of his mouth; for the Wolf was in such wondrous torment, that he had much ado to contain himself from swoounding: for his torment excruciated far the pain of his eye, and in the end he fell eber and one in a wound: then presently Reynard leapt upon, and drew him about the Liss, and drag'd him by the Legs, and struck and wounded, and bit him in many places, so that all the whole field might take notice thereof.

At this all Isegrim's friends were full of sorrow, and with great weeping and lamenting went to the King, and begged him to be pleased to appease the Combat, and take it into his own hands: which suit the King granted, and then the Lybard and the Loffe (being Warhals) entered the Liss, and told the Fox and the Wolf that the King would speak with them, and that the battle should there end, for he would take it into his own hands, and determine thereof: for for themselves, they had done sufficiently, neither would the King lose either of them: and to the Fox they said, the whole field gave him the victory.

The Fox said, I humbly thank them, and what pleased my Lord the King to command, I am ready to obey; for my ambition is no further than to be victor: Therefore I beseech you let my friends come to attend me, that I may proceed by their advice. They answered, it was reason so presently came forth Dame Slopard, and Grimbard her husband, Dame Rukewaw with her two Sisters, Buckas and Furrump her two Sons, and Malice her Daughter, the Field Mouse, the Weasel, and above an hundred which would not have come if the Fox had lost the conquest: for to him they

of Reynard the FOX.

gave both honour, will ever flock attendants; but to him that is in loss, will nothing but contempt follow. Alas, to the Fox came the Beaver, the Otter, and both their wives Pauntecrote, and Ordigale, and the Oitrole, the Martin, and the Fitchews, the Ferrit, the Squirrel, and a world more than I can name, and all because he was the victor: nay, divers which before had complained of him, were now of nearest kindred; and ready to do him all service. This is the fashion of the world, he that is rich and in favour, can never be poor or hungry for friendship, every one will seem to love him, every one will imitate his falshoods.



Then was a solemn feast held, Trumpets were sounded, Cornets winding Shavens, and all instruments warbled, and every one cried, Praised be Heaven for this glorious conquest. Reynard thanked them all kindly, and received them with great joy and gladness: When asked their opinions, whether he should yield the victory to the King or

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as: and Dame Slopard said, pea by all means Cousin, for it stands with your Honour, nor may you deny it. And so the Marshalls going before, they went all to the King, guarding the Fox on every side, all the Trumpets, Pipes and Minstrels sounding before him.



When Reynard came before the King, he fell on his knees, and the King made him stand up, and said to him, Reynard,

of Reynard the FOX.

now, you may well reioyce, for you have won much Honour this day; therefore here I discharge you, and set you free, to go whither your own will leads you; for all contestations I take upon my self, and will have it difficult by the wildest of the Kingdom, as soon as Isegrim's wounds shall be cured, at what time I will send for you, and to proceed to Judgment.

My worthy dread Lord (said the Fox) I am well appaid with any thing that shall please you: yet when I came first to your Highness Court, there were many malicious persons which sought my Life (whom I never injured) but they thought to overcome me, by joining with mine enemies against me, and thinking the Wolf had greater favour than I with your Majesty: this was the ground of their indignation, wherein they shewed their simplicity, not to alter the end which followed.

These men (my Lord) are like a great kennel of Hounds which once I saw standing at a Lords house on a Dunghil, where they waited for such as should bring them meat; anon they saw a Hound come out of the Kitchen, which had thence brought a goodly rib of Beef: but the Cook pursuing him, threw hot scalding water after him, and scalded all his hinder parts: but notwithstanding, away he went with his booty; but when his fellows perceived him, they called to him, and said, How much art thou bound to the good Cook which hath given thee that goodly bone so well furnished with flesh; but the Dog replied, you speak according to your knowledge; and praise me in such sort, as you see me before with the bone in my mouth; but if you please to look upon me behind on my Buttocks, you shall find how dearly I paid for it; and they beholding how he was scalded, and all the hair and skin slayed from his hinder loins, they began to be afraid and amazed at his torment; neither would they have any more of his Fellowship, but fled and ran away from him. In the same sort (my Lord) these false and unworthy Beasts, when they are made Lords, possess their desires and are mighty and renowned, then do they extort, pill

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and poll the poor and needy, and eat them up like so many hunger starved Hounds; for they are the Dogs with bones in their mouths, no man dare to meddle with them, but praise all their actions; no man dare to offend them; nay, many assist and help them in their unlawful actions, only that they may lick their fingers, and be partakers of their extortions.

My Daer Lord how can those men go safely, which go thus blind-fold? How can they expect but a shameful fall, whose steps are so uncertain? neither can any man pity them when their works are disclosed, but continual curses and upbraidings follow them to the grave with destruction: many of these have lost their hair (which is their friends) as the Hounds did, and have none left to cover their mischiefs, but all forsake them as the Hounds did the Dog which was scalded.

My Gracious Lord, I beseech you remember this moral example, and it will nothing impair the greatness of your virtue, for doubtless many of these evil extorting creatures are under your subjection, both in Towns, Cities, and great Lords houses, who out-face the poor, and sell away their freedoms and privileges, and threaten things upon them which they never knew, thought or imagined, and all to make up the Common-wealths of their own particular profits: but the ends of such are vile, and Heaven hath for them a Judgement: but of these errors I hope none shall justly accuse me, nor any of my kindred, but we shall acquit our selves nobly from the same. I fear no creatures accusations; for I will ever be the Fox, though all my foes swear to the contrary. My Lord, you I adore above all mortal creatures living; nor can any wisdom divert me from you, but I will abide by you to the last gasp: and though Malice have told your Highness to the contrary, yet I have ever disproved them, and so will do to the last moment.

CHAP.

of Reynard the FOX.

CHAP. XXV.

How the King forgave the Fox all things, and made him the greatest in his Land; and of his Noble return home with all his kindred.

The King said, Reynard, you are one that owe me homage and fealty, and I hope I shall ever enjoy it; And



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for your service, here I make you one of the Lords of my Privy Council. Take heed you do not any thing unworthily: for here I place you in all your power and authority as formerly you were, hoping you will administer Justice equally and truly. For as long as you employ your wit unto virtuous actions, so long the Court cannot miss you: for you are a Star, whose light exceeds all other, especially in finding out mischiefs, and preventing them. Wherefore remember the moral you your self told me, and be a lover of truth and equity. From henceforth I will be governed by your wisdom, and there shall not breathe that Creature in my Kingdom which shall do you injury, but I will highly revenge it. Whis you shall Proclaim through all the Nation, and be the chiefest Governour in the same, for the Office of High Wayliff here I freely bestow upon you, and I know you may reap great honour thereby.

All Reynards friends and kindred humbly thanked the King; but he told them it was much thought of that he intended to do for their sakes; and advised them all to admonish him to be careful of his faith and loyalty. When said Dame Rukewaw, Believe it my Lord, we will not fail in that point, neither fear you the contrary; for should he prove otherwise, we would renounce him? Then the Fox also thanked the King with fair and courteous words, saying: My gracious Lord! I am not worthy of these high honours you do me, yet will ever study with my service how to deserve them: nor shall my best Counsel at any time be wanting. And this said, he took his humble leave of the King, and so departed with the rest of his friends and kindred.

Now whilst these passages hapned, Bruin the Bear, Tibert the Cat, and Arwind and her Children, with the rest of their Lineage, drove the Wolf out of the Field, and laid him upon soft Litter, and Hay, and covered him all over very warm, and dressed his wounds, which were to the number of five and twenty, by the help of many skilful Leeches and Surgeons. His sickness and weakness was so great, that his feeling was lost: but they rubbed and chafed him

on

of Reynard the F O X.



on the temples, and under the eyes, till he leapt out of his swoond, and howled so loud, that all were amazed which heard him: but the Physicians gave him Cordials to drink, and a Dormiture or potion to make him sleep. And then comforted his wife, telling her there was no

The Moral.
By their heinous deeds to the Fox by the Lyon, is shewed, that seldom one good fortune cometh without another; and he that hath once achieved fame and renown, to him will the World be and dignities shall be bestowed upon him; as on the contrary part, he that is once fallen either in state or reputation, it is a thing of much difficulty to see him advanced without miracle; for worldly men are said to be like Dogs, which when one of their own kind is down, all the rest will fall upon him and worry him.

But wise men are amazed or good men (for both are scarce) are said to be like Hags, which

danger when one is

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their kind is danger or peril of his life. So the Court brake up, and every Beast return'd to his own home. Amongst the rest, Reynard the Fox took his leave of the King and Queen, they desired him not to be long absent

For any thing else contained in this Chapter, it is either Moralized by the speeches of the Fox, or else by the Author.



from

of Reynard the FOX.

from them. To whom he answered, that he would be ever ready at their service, as was his bounden duty; and not himself alone, but all his friends and kindred also. And then begging licence of his Majesty in all solemn manner, and with fair speech, he departed the Court.

Was there any Creature flattered braver, or to better purpose? for he that could do the like, might be a Master of the Eight liberal Sciences: And no Lord whether Spiritual or Temporal, but would have an ear open for all his Language. Nor died he without issue, for he hath Children almost in all places.

And indeed, he that hath no alliance to him in the Art of dissimulation, shall hardly prosper, as the World goeth: Though he want his hair, yet if he have his heart, it is enough to make him accepted.

Plain dealing is now an Erile: and Covetousness and fraud have taken possession of his Tenements; the Pope's Palace, the Courts of Emperors, Kings and Princes, cannot be exempted from this error.

Honey is now grown the only Favourite of the time; the very Church-Idol, and the Country-Worship: it can purchase all things, defend all things, and confound all things. And Mad-men Travel over the World, to gain this folly, this fashion. Who is not a true Fox, is but a beast of base estimation.

This is the World's custom; and what will become of the use, the wise man can hardly judge or imagine: Only that these heinous sins of falshood, Theft, Murder, and Ambition, can never walk but hand in hand with Judgment. From which I heartily pray that the Hand of the Highest will defend us, and make us walk in those paths which shall be suitable to virtue and piety. With which I conclude, since these misdeeds are not fit themes for me to treat of, since at the last day every one is sure to give an account for his own burthen.

With Reynard, all his friends and kinsfolk, to the number of forty, took their leaves also of the King: and went away with the Fox, who was no little glad creature

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ture that he had sped well and stood so fair in the Kings favour, for now he had power enough to aduance whom he pleased and pull down any that enuid his fortune.

After some tyme the Fox and all his friends came to his



Borough or Castle of Melpardus, where every one (in noble and courteous manner) took leave of the other, and Reynard did

of Reynard the FOX.

did to every one of them great reuerence, and thanked them for the love and honour he had receiued of them; professing euer more to remain their faithful seruant, and to serue them in all things wherein his life or goods might be seruiceable unto them: and shook hands and departed.

The Fox went into Dame Ermelin his Wife, who welcomed him with great tenderness: and to her and her children he related at large, all the wonders which had befallen him at the Court: and mist no tittle or circumstance therein. Then grew they proud that his fortune was so excellent: and the Fox spent his days from thenceforth (with his Wife and Children) in great joy and content.

Now whosoever shall relate unto you (of the Fox) more or less than you have heard, I would not wish you to build any faith upon his reports: Only this which you have already heard or read, you may believe at your best pleasure: Notwithstanding if any refuse, he shall not be accounted an Heretick, since he that only saw it, may best give credit unto it, and yet many in this World believe the things they have not seen.

Besides, there are many Plays, both Comick and Morall, which figure out things that neuer were, only to make use and benefit of the example: That men may thereby the better shun Vice, and pursue Virtue. In like manner, this Book, though it contain but matter of jest and sport, yet if ye look seriously thereinto, ye may haply find much Morall matter and wisdom, worth your consideration. Goodness, nor any Good man shall ye find in it disreputed, for all things are generally spoke, and every man may take his own part as his conscience shall so instruct him: if any man find himself too much oppressed, let him shake it off with amendment. If any man be clear, let him hold on his path, and avoid stumbling: And if any take dislike or offence, let him not blame me, but the Fox, for it is only his Language. But if all things suit to my wished imaginations, I shall then be encouraged to salute the World with a second part, clad in some neater English, deeper matter, and if not more, yet every whit as pleasant Morals.

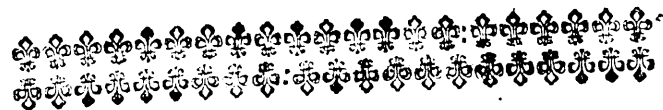


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- How *Bellin* the Ram and his lineage were given to the Bear and the Wolf. Chap. 16.
- How the King was angry at these complaints, took counsel for revenge, and how *Reynard* was forewarned of *Grimbard* the Brock. Chap. 17.
- How the Fox repenting his sins, doth make confession, and is absolved by the Brock. Chap. 18.
- How *Reynard* the Fox excused himself before the King, and the Kings Answer. Chap. 19.
- How dame *Rukenaw* answered for the Fox to the King, and of the parable she told. Chap. 20.
- How *Reynard* excused himself of *Kaywards* death, and all other imputations; got the Kings favour, and made a relation of certain Jewels. Chap. 21.
- How *Reynard* made his peace with the King, and how *Ifegrim* the Wolf complained of him again. Chap. 22.
- How *Ifegrim* proffered his Glove to *Reynard* to fight with him, which *Reynard* accepted; and how *Rukenaw* advised the Fox to carry himself in the fight. Chap. 23.
- Of the combat between the Fox and the Wolf; the events, passages, and victory. Chap. 24.
- How the King forgave the Fox all things, and made him the greatest in the Land; and of his Noble return home with all his kindred. Chap. 25.

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